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EVER WEEKLY

Treasury suffers £2bn revenue shortfall

## Bootleggers force Brown's Budget hand

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

GORDON BROWN is to unveil a tougher-than-expected Budget after being hit by a £2 billion shortfall in revenue, much of it because of tobacco smuggling.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer is expected to announce an investigation into the operation of Customs and Excise after officials told him that he was losing more than £1 billion in duty a year through organised cigarette smuggling.

The worldwide drop in oil prices will also mean the loss of several million pounds in revenue.

Mr Brown's room for manoeuvre next Tuesday is believed to have been severely curtailed by the shortfall, which was not reflected in the healthy January borrowing figures that encouraged speculation about a generous Budget.

The Treasury has been alarmed by such reports, because the good January figures did not take account of the lost Excise revenue. Treasury insiders are urging caution and one said: "The Chancellor has made plain that he wants to keep to his golden rule that tax revenues have to cover current spending and that the public finances should remain in surplus for the next four years. If the revenues are lower than expected, it means that the amount we spend will not be as much."

That means hopes of much higher public spending emerging from the Budget are likely to be dashed. The allocations made to ministers in last year's comprehensive spending review are not under threat, but requests to Mr Brown for extra spending this year may fall on deaf ears.

It also remained uncertain last night whether Mr Brown would go ahead with his long-promised plan to introduce a 10p income tax rate next week. Most analysts had expected him to do so and to help to finance the change through cutting or wiping out the remaining 10 per cent of mortgage interest relief.

The Chancellor is still believed to want to tax child benefit, although

A handshake carefully staged for the cameras marked the end of one of the longest political feuds in British politics on Saturday night (Shirley English writes).

Robin Cook and Gordon Brown officially buried the hatchet after barely speaking to each other socially for 20 years.

The truce was called at a party at Livingston Football Club to mark the Foreign Secretary's 25th anniversary as an MP. The two ministers shook hands while Mr Cook's wife, Gaynor, and Sarah Macaulay, the Chancellor's girlfriend, looked on. A few words of mutual admiration cemented the reconciliation.

practical difficulties over the principle of independent taxation mean that he is unlikely to do so this year. He may, however, set a target date to start taxing the benefit paid to all mothers.

The Government has been shocked by the rise in tobacco smuggling. Professional crime syndicates are moving to cigarettes because the authorities have been more successful in stopping drugs

smuggling. Container-loads of cigarettes are being brought through the ports with the result that one in eight cigarettes smoked in Britain is smuggled, according to government sources. Without a tip-off, Customs officers have little hope of stopping the trade and the loss to the revenue is likely to double within three years unless something can be done to check the trade.

To that end, Mr Brown is to appoint a senior figure from industry to take charge of efforts to clamp down on the illegal trade. His remit will include an overall look at Customs and Excise operations to see whether staff and resources are being deployed in the right way.

Mr Brown has, however, rejected calls to cut tobacco taxation as a way of deterring smuggling, and the cost of a packet of cigarettes is likely to rise by 20p to an average £3.64. Increasing the tax on smoking in part of the Government's health policy.

The new anti-smuggling chief will consider the practicalities of stamping cigarette packets with their countries of origin and the feasibility of equipping ports with giant X-ray machines to inspect containers.

Sources said the investigation would be rigorous and more officials are expected to be assigned to dealing with cigarettes.

"We are unlikely to put money into Customs unless we are absolutely satisfied that the money is being properly spent. The situation is deeply alarming. Some 2 per cent of the market was smuggled in 1996. That figure has gone up to 10 per cent in two years."



Sarah Macaulay and Gordon Brown at the celebration to mark Robin Cook's 25 years as an MP

## Scottish Parliament to sideline the Queen

By Alan Hamilton

BUCKINGHAM Palace is dismayed by the Queen's limited role for the ceremonial opening of the Scottish Parliament. Edinburgh has been given by argument over the extent of the Queen's participation, with some nationalist voices wanting her to have only a minimal walk-on part.

Now, after months of bickering, a compromise has been reached: she will travel in the Scottish State Coach in a horse-drawn procession from the Palace of Holyroodhouse up the City's Royal Mile, but her part in the opening ceremony is expected to be a few formal words. The day's main event will be a "people's procession".

Traditionalists want her to wear the robes of the Order of the Thistle, Scotland's equivalent of the Garter, but that has yet to be decided. Many Scots were offended when, in 1953, she made her first official visit to their country after the Coronation wearing ordinary day clothes and carrying a handbag.

Nor has it been agreed what ceremonial role will be given to the country's Crown Jewels, normally displayed in Edinburgh Castle. Some want them carried at the end of the procession from Holyroodhouse. At the annual State Opening of Parliament at Westminster the Imperial State Crown is borne in its own coach.

Palace officials are considering a greater role for the Princess Royal, already the Royal Family's most regular visitor to Scotland with a heavy programme of public engagements. But the Palace yesterday dismissed as "wholly wrong" a report that she would establish a permanent office at Holyroodhouse.

Sources also rejected a suggestion that the Queen would appoint a Private Secretary for Scotland.

"The Royal Family does not take Scotland — or for that matter Wales — for granted," a Palace source said yesterday. "... Scotland and Wales are important domestic issues and we will be looking closely at how the union develops."

Leading article, page 21

### General in poll lead

Amid widespread allegations of vote-rigging, Oluf Falae refused to accept the victory of General Olusegun Obasanjo in the Nigerian presidential election.

International observers reported many irregularities and the country's transition from dictatorship to democracy was at risk as members of Mr Falae's All People's Party stormed out of the electoral commission offices during counting. Page 12

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## Owen and Healey will mount anti-euro drive

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

DAVID OWEN and Denis Healey, veterans of the last Labour government, will return to the political front line today to present a challenge to the Government's move towards the euro.

Along with Lord Prior, the Heathite former Tory Cabinet minister, and leading businessmen, they will join forces in a powerful new group billed as pro-European but opposed to Britain abandoning sterling.

Their move comes the day after William Hague hardened his party's stance against the euro and made plain that he would be happy to be at the forefront of any anti-euro campaign.

The Conservative party leader brushed aside the announcement by five Europhile Tories that they would stand against the party in June's European elections and, in what was seen as a warning to Kenneth Clarke and Michael Heseltine, said that any Tory MPs

failing to back official candidates would be "out on their ear." He also announced a policy commission of economists and experts to study the advantages of keeping the pound. Mr Hague dismissed the newly formed Pro-Euro Conservative Party as a "sour grapes" party because two of the leaders had been deselected.

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Tony Blair's perceived shift towards the euro as he launched the national changeover plan last week has given new urgency to today's launch. Lord Healey, the last Labour Chancellor before Gordon Brown, yesterday issued a warning that the euro could crash before Mr Blair was called upon to make a deci-

sion. Imposing a single interest rate and exchange rate meant the project was doomed to failure, he said.

Lord Prior, a former Northern Ireland Secretary and Employment Secretary and former chairman of GEC, issued a warning that monetary union could mean heavier social, labour and pension costs and that Britain should "give it a miss".

He said that he was sad to be in the opposite camp to his old friend and boss, Edward Heath. "But it is because I felt so strongly about this I decided it was time to stand up and be counted."

Lord Owen, former Labour Foreign Secretary, declared that he wanted Britain to remain self-governing. He will lead the New Europe group, to be launched in London this morning. He said he believed in the EU and single market, but did not want to be "dragged into a single state".

## Straw returns to more controversy

By Claudia Joseph and Philip Webster

THE Home Secretary will be back at his desk today after disappearing for 72 hours at the height of the controversy over the Stephen Lawrence inquiry report.

Having evaded the media during his weekend in the south of France, Jack Straw will return to new claims of bungling in the Lawrence case

and calls for his resignation. But his most pressing task will be the publication of another critical report on race relations in the police force, published by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary.

Instead of facing MPs himself, Mr Straw left his deputy, Paul Boateng, to make an emergency statement to the Commons apologising for the "serious and regrettable" errors which led to publication of the names and addresses of police informants in the Macpherson report.

Yesterday Sir Norman Fowler, the Shadow Home Secretary, said Mr Straw should be "considering his position". The Home Secretary should have been in Britain, offering reassurance to witnesses and checking that they had not been placed in danger, Sir Norman claimed.

The Inspectorate of Constabulary report today is expected to castigate forces for not doing enough to combat racism.

Continued on page 2, col 8



## Beano original sells for £6,000

By Hannah Betts



The first edition Beano, complete with mask

DENNIS the Menace and the Bash Street Kids were mere twinkles in the cartoonist's eye when the first edition of the Beano was published in 1938. Instead, Big Eggo the ostrich ruled the roost, a character long since consigned to comic history.

Lord Snooty is the only relic from 1938 to have lasted into the 1990s and only the boy aristocrat and his pals could now afford the original edition, which sold at auction yesterday for £6,200, the largest sum ever paid for a comic in Britain.

The proud owner is Oliver Driscoll, 25,

from Matlock, Derbyshire, a cameraman who grew up on the exploits of Dennis the Menace and Gnasher. After a battle of nerves in the auction room, Mr Driscoll felt he had got excellent value for money.

"It's brilliant," he enthused, holding back tears of emotion. "I've always been a big fan of the Beano and a first edition is something I've long since had my eye on."

The comic, dated July 30, 1938, is one of only six copies of the first edition known to be in existence. Its value was boosted because it came with the only known surviving Whoopee mask, a cover-mount given away free to readers.

The original owner, who wishes to remain anonymous, is a 70-year-old man from the West Country whose son galvanised him into action after watching a television programme about the value of old comics. The comic was bought for him by his mother for the princely sum of two old pennies — less than 1p.

Euan Kerr, today's Beano editor, said: "In those days, a comic was a completely throwaway item and nobody would have thought of keeping them, which is why they are so rare. This owner hadn't been keeping it as an heirloom. It had just been sitting up in a loft gathering dust."

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# Lords commission expected to stumble over tight deadline

By JAMES LANDALE  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Royal Commission on House of Lords reform meets today for the first time amid growing criticism of its membership and timetable.

The 12-member body headed by Lord Wakeham, the former Tory minister, is expected to hammer out its work programme for the coming months and hold an initial discussion of the potential options for radical constitutional change.

The Commission has been or-

dered by the Government to report by the end of the year. If successful, the Commission will have been the shortest ever and will have solved in exactly 10 months, a thorny constitutional riddle which has remained unanswered for more than a century.

Constitutional experts believe the tight deadline means the Commission will not have time to think radically and will, instead, propose conservative reforms which are acceptable to the Government.

Concerns have also been raised

privately in the Lords over the distinguished but hardly radical membership of the Commission. Comprising nine men and three women, it includes Lord Hurd of Westwell, the former Tory foreign secretary, Lord Butler of Brockwell, the former Cabinet secretary, and Sir Michael Wheeler-Booth, a former Clerk of the Parliaments.

The chief fear is that the Commission will simply follow the lead given by the Government in its recent White Paper and propose a mostly appointed second chamber with a

modest, indirectly elected element. "Whether the Royal Commission will be influenced in that direction remains to be seen," Lord Richards, the sacked Labour leader in the Lords, said last week. "I hope it will resist that temptation."

Writing in Bristol University's latest newsletter, Donald Shell, senior lecturer in politics and leading expert on the Lords, said: "One does wonder how serious an exercise the Commission and the chairmanship of Lord Wakeham is intended to be. Giving the task to a bunch of busy

people who will manage a few meetings between now and the end of the year implies that ministers want a solution to the House of Lords' problem, rather than any serious reflection on the role of the second chamber in the context of other constitutional reforms underway."

Some peers believe that if the Royal Commission does come up with radical proposals unacceptable to the Government, its report will simply be ignored. Lord Carter, the Chief Whip in the Lords, said last week during a debate on reform,

that there would be "no question" of the Royal Commission being ignored.

He added, however: "No government is bound by the conclusions of a royal commission. We cannot predict that the outcome of the Commission's work will be wholly acceptable to the Government."

Mr Shell believes that if the so-called Weatherill Amendment temporarily saving 91 hereditary peers from expulsion survives, the Government would be very tempted to ignore the Royal Commission's

work and just allow the transitional, appointed second chamber to become the long-term status quo. The amendment, expected to be tabled next month, when the first stage House of Lords Bill expelling hereditary peers reaches the Lords, was a government compromise to buy off Tory peers threatening Parliamentary trench warfare.

The Commission will meet initially for a buffet lunch today at its Westminster offices in London.

Leading article, page 21

## Jay faces row on change in rape evidence

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Minister for Women, Baroness Jay of Paddington, was last night at the centre of a row over government plans to reform the admissibility of women's sexual history as evidence in rape trials.

The proposals are shortly to be considered by the House of Lords. They are opposed by both the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Bingham of Cornhill, and the organisation Women Against Rape — for conflicting reasons.

The controversy has been fuelled by the disclosure that the Government's own Women's Unit, headed by Lady Jay, says that there are times when a woman's sexual history may be relevant. In particular, the unit says that it could be relevant to whether a man thought a woman had consented to sex or not — the attacker's defence that he "thought she wanted it".

The Women's Unit says: "A defendant might claim that he believed the complainant was consenting because he had been told that she always kicked and screamed during sex. This would be relevant to his honest belief."

The disclosure, in a letter to Women Against Rape, has outraged and dismayed the group, which argues that the Home Secretary's proposals give wide latitude for a woman's sexual history to be admitted. Under present law, a man cannot be convicted of rape if

he honestly believed a woman consented. This is based on a ruling in 1976.

In a reply to the Women's Unit, Women Against Rape condemn the failure by Lady Jay to meet their request — backed by 200 organisations — to support a ban on questions about sexual history in rape trials. "How can rape victims expect protection if after two decades of campaigning for protective laws, the Women's Unit — which is supposed to represent their interests — believes rapists' lies over women's evidence?" the pressure group says. "Rapist after rapist has been allowed to walk free after claiming that the victim he had beaten black and blue loved 'rough sex'."

Jack Straw's proposals seek to curb judges' discretion on admitting as evidence a woman's sexual history. But judges would be able to admit such material where it is evidence of a man's belief in consent. Women Against Rape say that this means the protection which the proposals appear to give would evaporate. They want tighter restrictions.

The Lord Chief Justice is arguing that what is admitted should be at the discretion of the trial judge, as now. The Bill will also stop defendants cross-examining their victims, a move opposed by the Lord Chief Justice — and also by Women Against Rape.

Ruth Hall, of Women

Against Rape, said: "This is a false protection. Most rapists are represented by barristers who are more skilled than themselves in humiliating and discrediting victims." The issue was not what asked the questions, but what questions were asked, she added. "Many countries now ban sexual history evidence. None makes an exception for a man who claims he believed that a woman who was kicking and screaming was consenting."

The proposals are contained in the Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Bill and are expected to be debated by peers at the Bill's Report stage.

The Women's Unit says that Lady Jay shares the concern of Women Against Rape that "irrelevant evidence about complainants' previous sexual history should be kept out of sexual offence trials."

The Lord Chief Justice wishes to retain the discretion that judges currently have on whether sexual history is allowed; but Women Against Rape argue that the Government's proposals create a huge gateway for sexual history to be admitted. Lord Thomas of Gresford has highlighted the fundamental flaw in the Bill that "in almost every case where the defence is one of consent, there will be an additional defence that, even if the complainant did not consent, the defendant reasonably believed that she did consent."



Errol Kerr loves figures so much that he is able to recognise video films by the serial numbers that flash up

## Boy has genius figured out at 3

HE HAS a photographic memory, can count to ten in five languages including Swahili, recognises videos by their serial number, has an IQ of 150 — all at the age of three.

Errol Kerr, who has just started nursery school, has astonished his family and teachers. His parents, Alison and Steven, are desperately trying to keep up with their son's insatiable appetite for knowledge.

Mrs Kerr, 33, from South Shields, noticed her son's talent when he was just a baby. "He was very demanding. I

could only feed him or dress him when I played certain kinds of music. It was if the words were registering with him. When he was about 12 months I used to put Disney videos in the recorder for him, but he would shout out what they were before they came on the television I tried to do it

without showing him the cover, but he still knew what it was. It was then I realised that he was recognising the serial number that flashes up before the trailers start.

"Before he was two he could name every make of car on the road. He would say 'There's a Nissan' or 'There's

a Volvo'." Tests showed that Errol had an IQ level in reading and comprehension of 150, equivalent to that of an eight-year-old.

The local authority has assigned education experts to monitor the boy's progress. A spokesman for South Tyneside Education Authority said: "Errol has outstanding ability."

Mrs Kerr, a computer operator who has two other children, said: "I don't know where he gets it from; he certainly doesn't take after me or my husband."

## Police investigate MoD hacker claim

SCOTLAND YARD'S Fraud Squad is investigating allegations that a hacker has succeeded in breaking into secret military installations in Britain (Michael Evans writes).

Fraud Squad officers who are responsible for investigating offences against the Computer Misuse Act began inquiries after suspicions that several "international sites", including military installations, had been targeted by a hacker. Scotland Yard confirmed that an investigation was under way but refused to give any more information.

Ministry of Defence sources firmly denied a report that a hacker had managed to take control of one of Britain's mili-

tary communications satellites and had altered its course. The MoD's SkyNet 4 satellites provide secure communications for all British Armed Forces overseas. Until last week there were four such satellites in orbit. Last week a fifth satellite was launched on an Ariane rocket at the European Space Centre in French Guiana. MoD sources said all the SkyNet satellites were "on course" and denied that a hacker had tried to interfere with them.

A Sunday Business report claimed that the MoD had had to report that one of its satellites had been taken over by a hacker. The MoD sources said the satellites were immune from hacking.

## IRA weapons will not be forfeited, say chiefs

By MARTIN FLETCHER, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

SINN FEIN'S leaders emphatically ruled out IRA disarmament yesterday as several thousand supporters attended a Belfast rally to demand their party's immediate and unconditional inclusion in Northern Ireland's new government.

"There's not even the remotest possibility of the IRA responding to this unilateral demand... for the surrender of the IRA," Martin McGuinness, Sinn Fein's chief negotiator, told the BBC.

He added that Unionists were "unable to accept that in the course of 30 years they

hadn't the ability to militarily defeat the IRA."

Michael McLaughlin, Sinn Fein's more moderate chairman, issued the same defiant message at the afternoon rally. He accused Unionists of fighting a rear-guard action against change and nationalist empowerment, and said their veto on full implementation of the Good Friday Agreement had to be removed.

"We are sick, sore and tired of [Unionists] blocking, stalling, prevaricating, making deals then backing out of deals and constantly trying to re-

write the Good Friday agreement," he said.

The Government has set Wednesday week as a target date for transferring power to Northern Ireland. That will not happen unless the new executive has been set up but David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist Party leader, will not set up an executive that includes Sinn Fein without a downpayment of IRA weaponry. Mr McLaughlin insisted Sinn Fein was committed to contributing to building trust, but any capitulation to Unionist demands would be a betrayal.

## Straw family take flights on cheap

By CLAUDIA JOSEPH

THE Home Secretary and his wife, Alice, who earn more than £150,000 between them and run three houses, saved £360 by flying to the south of France on the budget airline easyJet.

EasyJet's most expensive flights, from Luton to Nice, cost £129 each way but Mr Straw, who earns £87,851, booked the tickets before Christmas at a discount price of £39 each.

Like the other passengers on the two-hour cut price flight, the couple, who have been married for 20 years, were not offered a meal on the aeroplane, just crisps, biscuits and

hot and cold drinks. It is the second time the couple have saved money on airline flights. Last week's Register of Members' Interests disclosed that the Straw family obtained an upgrade to club class on their British Airways flights to and from Delhi over Christmas, saving them £8280.

Mr Straw, 52, who has been an MP since 1979, and his wife, who is the second most senior civil servant in the Department of Health, enjoy a comfortable lifestyle. Mrs Straw, 49, earns between £75,210 and £109,420 as director of resources and service. They own three houses, including the family home in a fashionable square in London.

## Straw back to face a new outcry

Continued from page 1

year after an initial report found weaknesses.

While Mr Bosteng stood at the despatch box, Mr Straw and his wife Alice, a senior civil servant at the Department of Health, were in the middle of a flight to the French Riviera.

The couple bought their easyJet budget flight tickets in December, at a cost of £39 each way instead of £129, but chose not to change it despite the airline allowing passengers to change their flights for £10 plus the difference in seat prices.

Instead, they caught the 10.45am easyJet flight from Luton Airport to Nice, only informing a handful of Whitehall officials where they were going.

In a direct message to the black community, Tony Blair will today tell the *New Nation* newspaper that Britain is lagging behind the United States in its treatment of ethnic minorities.

"In all honesty, I don't think I can say that enough has been done to improve race relations in the UK," he says.

Meanwhile the Bishop of Sturminster, the Rt Rev Dr John Sentamu, who was one of Sir Williams' inquiry team, said it took full responsibility for including informant details in the report's appendices.

## Russian threat will cost RAF £1bn for new missile

By MICHAEL EVANS  
DEFENCE EDITOR

THE Ministry of Defence will spend £1 billion to replace one of the missiles selected for the RAF's Eurofighter in order to counter the threat of a new Russian air-to-air missile.

Western intelligence services have warned that the new Russian missile will be faster and have a longer range than the medium-range air-to-air missile (AMRAAM) to be fitted to the Eurofighter. The RAF is

buying 232 Eurofighters at a cost of £15 billion. The first are due to come into service in 2002.

Although a cash shortage has stopped work on the new Russian missile, it is feared that countries that have Russian fighters, such as China and India, may help fund the programme. Intelligence services believe that it will take four years to finish developing the missile.

The British and other European defence ministries still try to stay ahead of Russian weapons technology because Moscow sells its arms to

an increasing number of foreign customers. Defence sources stressed that the Eurofighter would still have a more sophisticated radar than the best Russian fighters, as well as better defensive systems and electronic warfare equipment.

However, the potential threat posed by the Russian missile is being taken so seriously that the Government is to approve the development of a superior weapon. The MoD is this week expected to ask for final bids for a missile that will be able to hit a target at least 70 miles away.

The range of AMRAAM is only about 20 miles. The contract is expected to be awarded during the summer.

The choice to be made is between a European collaboration involving, among others, British Aerospace and GEC, and an American system developed by the Raytheon company, makers of the AMRAAM.

The European missile, called Meteor, would not be in operation until about 2007, five years after Eurofighter comes into service. Raytheon is offering an interim weapon sys-

tem based on AMRAAM which could be ready by 2004 and a more advanced missile, comparable to the Meteor, about three years later.

The European consortium has dismissed Raytheon's interim missile as "inadequate".

The Government is being warned that if it chooses the Raytheon weapon, it could put at risk export sales of the Eurofighter because Congress in Washington has the power to veto the sale of any aircraft armed with an American missile.

Sources in the European consortium said the Meteor would have a significantly better performance than the existing AMRAAM, using a German-designed ramjet propulsion system. They said the motor of the AMRAAM only functioned at top speed for about seven seconds, after which the missile began to slow down, reducing its "killing" ability at the far end of its maximum range.

In recent clashes over Iraq, Iraqi MIG jets were able to outrun AMRAAMs launched by American fighters.

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OME NEWS

## Heading the ball is fool's game, says GP

By IAN MURRAY  
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

HEADING the ball outside the penalty area should be banned to protect football players from brain injury, according to a GP who advises a league club.

David Kerrick, medical officer to Exeter City, says that a rule change is needed immediately as evidence mounts that repeated heading may cause mental decline.

Writing in *The British Journal of General Practice*, published today, Dr Kerrick says it is estimated that there are over a million regular soccer players in Britain alone. In view of the huge numbers active in the sport round the world, if heading the ball caused even a slight amount of brain damage there would be significant public health consequences.

Although the dangers of serious head injury while playing the game are recognised, there is conflicting evidence about whether heading the ball is hazardous.

A benefits tribunal in Scotland last year rejected an appeal for compensation by Billy McPhail, a former Celtic star, who claimed that his pre-senile dementia was caused by frequently heading heavy leather balls. He scored a hat-trick of headers when Celtic beat Rangers 7-1 in the 1967 Scottish Cup Final and Sir Tom Finney, giving evidence on his behalf, told the tribunal: "Billy was outstanding in the air... There's got to be a link between heading these balls and problems in later life."

A recent survey using brain scans on professional Norwegian players found they did suffer real neurophysiological impairment. Another study of Norwegian amateur players published in *The Lancet* also found subtle changes in their ability to reason.

The Football Association's medical committee is to start a career-long monitoring programme of 15 apprentices to see if heading the ball causes permanent damage. They will be reviewed every five years.

Dr Kerrick says that it will be difficult to obtain clear evidence, but the latest studies do imply that heading poses a danger. He accepts that it would be impossible to ban heading altogether because it is an essential part of the game and "offers an important dimension of play, particularly around the goalmouth."

However, because of the risks, he argues that a compromise may be acceptable. "There can be few global health proposals that cost nothing, are easy to implement and have the potential to confer benefit on such a large number of people," he said.



The bi-monthly magazine will have a readership of 10,000 but the advertisements are aimed at the elite with seven-figure transfer fees rather than the less affluent world outside the Premier League

## Title for men with world at their feet

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

THE first life-style magazine for professional footballers has been launched, filled with glossy advertisements for fast cars, country mansions and luxury yachts.

The *Players' Journal* is distributed free to an elite of 1,000 men with a combined earning power of about £361 million.

The advertisements tempt the Premiership's finest with playthings such as a yacht which cruises the Caribbean for \$87,500 a week, and a Fiat Audelina car, which does 0-60 in 6.2 seconds and has a top speed of 150mph. For the less playful, there is a modern mansion with almost as many bathrooms as bedrooms, costing £1.9 million.

They are also adverts to attract the wives and girlfriends who help to spend the seven-figure transfer fees and bonuses.

"Footballers do it by numbers," says the advertisement for Classic Nouveau Registrations, which offers personalised number plates such as FAS 7, 60 GO and MONEY, with prices up to £99,500.

There are lots of glossy colour pictures, mainly action shots of famous players from Bobby Charlton to Michael Owen, in the 130 pages of the bimonthly produced by the Professional Footballers Association. The cover boy is David Beckham.

The articles give an idea of the tribulations of a rich and famous footballer's life. A section headed "Can I thump him?" contains five pages of advice about how to tackle nosy reporters and photographers. A sports lawyer writes: "Apart from the fleeting moment of pleasure that it may give, hitting a member of the press or a photographer will almost certainly result in an action being taken against you."

The Health and Fitness section has an introduction to the hamstring, complete with pictures of a masked surgeon, players being stretched away in agony, and Alan Shearer warming up. (Next issue your pulse and what it's telling you.)

An article headlined "Villas go top" gives tips on how to arrange a sunshine break in a remote villa, because "luxury, privacy and independence score highly in your list of holiday priorities."

Another feature asks: "What sort of player is the ad man's dream?" After five pages of consideration, the author concludes: "Blend the skill and application of Kenny Dalglish and the flair and high profile of George Best, and you have the ad man's dream."

The *Players' Journal* itself is the real ad man's dream. The magazine is being delivered through the doors of all PFA members, and is the only way to target this highly lucrative niche market. The readership is about 10,000.

Not everything is decadence and pleasure in a footballer's world. HSBC Personal Disability Insurance has an advertisement showing a player on a stretcher with the ironic headline "A great future."

Next to the "Can I thump him?" feature is an advertisement for automated gates, and a few pages later is one for bodyguards.

Ken Bruce, chief executive of Futures In Sport, which has taken a two-page spread for management training courses, thinks *The Players' Journal* may have too many pages.

The majority of footballers seem to have a very low boredom threshold," he said. "They don't seem the sort of people to sit down and read a 130-odd page magazine."

While it is easy to imagine a footballer's girlfriend such as Victoria "Push Spice" Adams browsing through the advertisements, the magazine may leave a Third Division player struggling to pay the mortgage feeling a little cold.

Michael Tait, whose Property Hunters service finds homes for people who are rich and busy, said it was a "fair assumption" that none of his clients played for Leyton Orient or Barnet.

## Shearer scores over the tycoons

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

ALAN SHEARER, the England and Newcastle striker, is reported to be Britain's highest earning footballer, with £77.5 million a year including a long-term £20 million boot deal with Umbro.

The wages and salaries bill of the Premier League was £218 million, according to the latest Deloitte Touche survey, while even the journeymen of the Third Division received £18 million.

Footballers' earnings have been rising rapidly, by more than 25 per cent a

year, and the figure for this season is likely to be considerably higher.

The Deloitte Touche survey put the total wage bill of the 92 league clubs at £364 million, but that excludes the sponsorship deals which can increase a player's cash earnings fivefold. Well-known players from all divisions often have to pay nothing for luxuries as sponsors lavish them with designer boots, socks, shirts and even sports cars.

Manchester United spent £23 million on salaries, Newcastle United £17 million, Arsenal and Liverpool £15 million each.

Hartlepool United spent £803,000. Paul Gascoigne is reported to earn £13.5 million a year. David Beckham £9.4 million. Michael Owen £7 million.

The basic salary of a chief executive in the FTSE 100 is £428,000, although that is boosted to £617,000 with his annual bonus and long-term incentive plan. Charles Brinkley of the global investment service AMWES earns £2.5 million a year. The Prime Minister gets £102,750 on top of his MP's salary of £48,000 (although Tony Blair chooses to draw just over that).

Salvatore Ferragamo



## Spice babies 'at risk of deafness'

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Spice Girls babies are in danger of being born slightly deaf, new research suggests. The children's ears are at risk because of the noise level at concerts performed by their mothers.

Michelle Brown, known as "Scary Spice", gave birth to a daughter last week and "Push Spice" Victoria Adams is expecting a baby within a couple of months.

Researchers have found that even in the womb, such noise can permanently damage a child's hearing. Unborn babies can also be partially deafened if their mothers move the towel rack in power boats or are exposed to prolonged noise at their workplace.

"While we don't have direct measurements, we recommend that pregnant women avoid such noise exposure if possible," Professor Kenneth Gjerstad, of Florida University, National Hearing Conservation Society at Atlanta, Georgia. The rule of thumb is

that if you have to speak loudly to be understood, that noise environment is potentially dangerous to your hearing and your infant's hearing.

Linda Frazier, of the University of Kansas, said that human studies had shown that the loss of hearing among children of women who worked in noisy places was enough to make it difficult for them to hear teachers at school and possibly cause learning difficulties.

As many as 640 children born in Britain each year have a significant hearing impairment. The National Deaf Children's Society said that the problem was not noticed in half of the children until they were 18 months old, and that it was not noticed diagnosed in a quarter of them until they were 7. Thousands more suffer hearing loss through illness or accident. As many as a quarter of five-year-olds have lost hearing as a result of ear infections.

## Thin Red Line defies US attack

By SHIRLEY ENGLISH

WAR is being waged over the title of the American film *The Thin Red Line*, which went on general release this weekend. Concern has been expressed that the phrase which described British troops in the Crimean War will be lost to Hollywood's definition in the minds of young moviegoers.

The director Terrence Malick's three-hour war epic, starring Sean Penn and Nick Nolte, tells of an American attempt to capture the Pacific island of Guadalcanal from the Japanese forces in 1942.

The film's publicity attributes the title's origin to an old saying from the American Mid-West: "There is only a thin red line between the sane and the mad." Britons hold that the phrase originated with *The Times* war correspondent Sir William Howard Russell, who used it to describe the 93rd Sutherland Highlanders at the Battle of Balaklava on October 25, 1854.

Forming a two-deep defensive line to repel the Russian advance, he said in his dispatch that their scarlet tunics appeared as a "thin red streak topped with a line of steel".

The phrase "the thin red line" was later attributed to him and the regiment, now the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, adopted it as its own. Despite the regiment abandoning red tunics for dark green jackets and Black Watch tartan kilts, the phrase remains the title of the regimental magazine. The event inspired one of the best known 19th-century battle paintings, *The Thin Red Line* by Robert Gibb, the Scottish artist.

Tim Hall, of *The Thin Red Line*, a shirtmaker in Savile Row, London, which supplies the military, said yesterday: "We are proud of the historical and British connotations of our name and naturally it is of some concern to us that as a result of the Terrence Malick film the phrase will be widely misunderstood."

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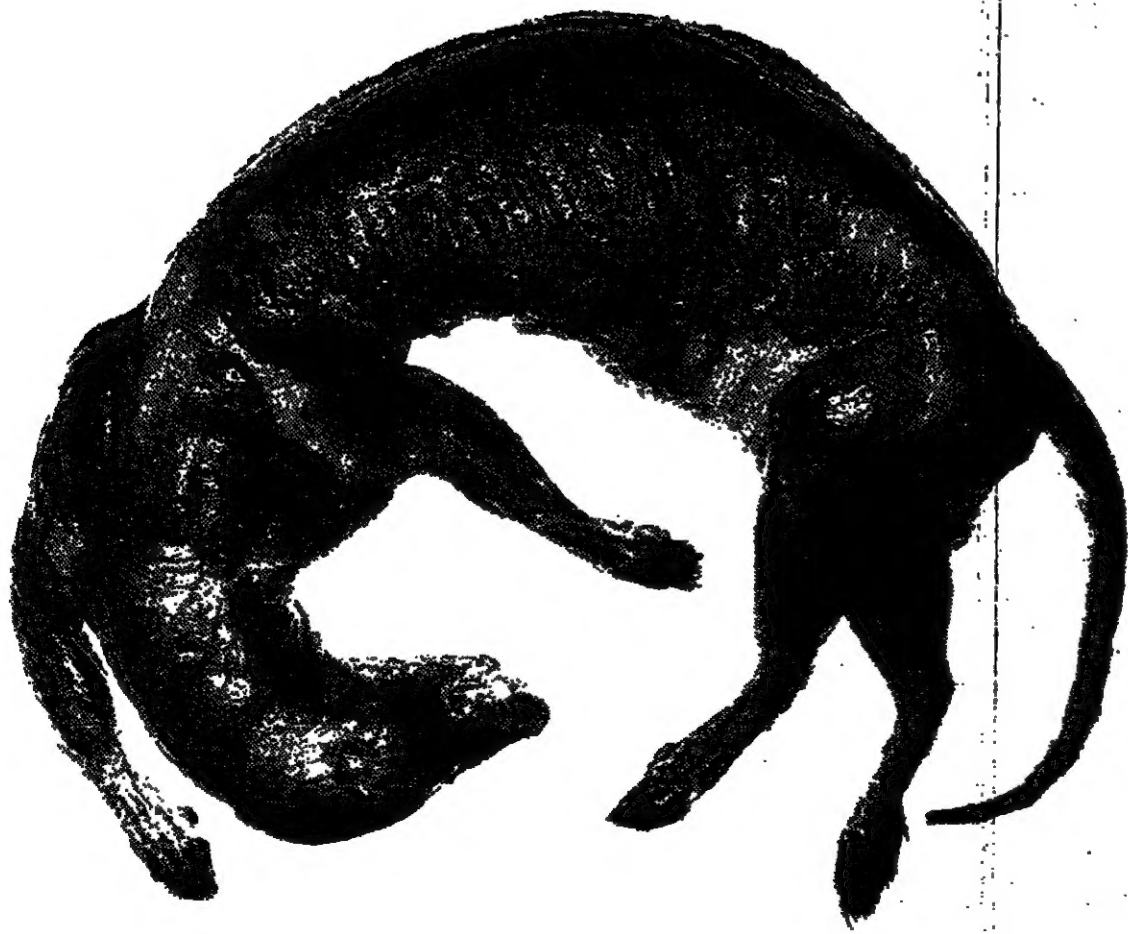
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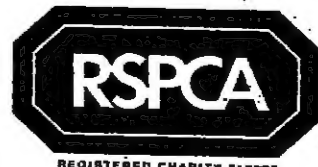
Forming a two-deep defensive



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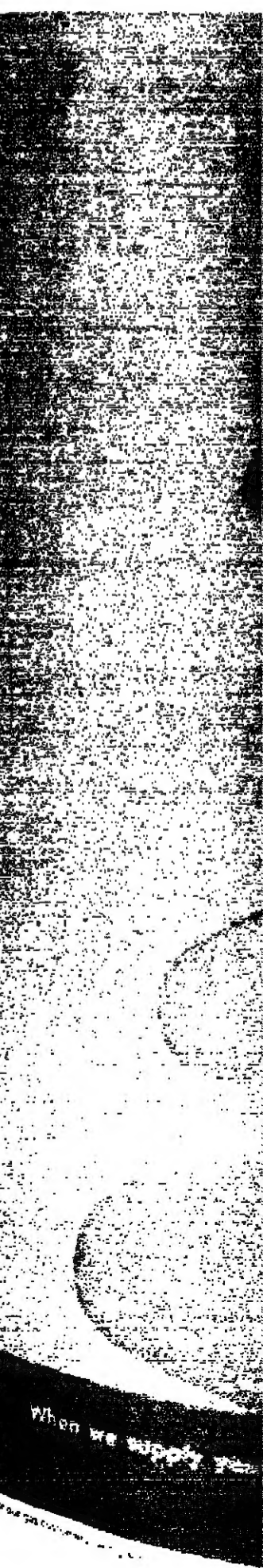
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# Fight fan dies as riot breaks out after bout

BY MICHAEL PATERSON

A BOXING fan died after falling under the wheels of a coach while trying to escape fighting that broke out after a Commonwealth title bout. Violence raged around the ambulance as they tried to save the man's life.

The 31-year-old was carried into the coach for treatment but rioters, one swinging a chain above his head, forced their way inside. Windows were smashed and passengers assaulted while the ambulance men attempted to revive him. Fighting broke out between supporters after the Commonwealth middleweight title bout between Jason Lewis and Paul Jones at Oldham Sports Centre on Saturday. The conflict spilled out into the car park where the man was fatally injured. He will be named today.

The ambulance men, who asked not to be named, spoke of their horror at the fighting. One, who has 15 years experience, said: "It was the sheer level of violence that shocked us. It was a baying mob. Any-

one else could have run away or defended themselves but we were there with a job to do. We were there to save someone's life and we couldn't just leave."

His colleague, in his 40s, said: "We are used to dealing [with situations] where violence does occur, but not of this magnitude."

The man who died had travelled from London in the coach to watch the fight between Jones, 32, of Sheffield, and Matthews, 28, from Hackney, East London. A sell-out crowd of about 1,000 saw Matthews win after Jones was disqualified by the referee, John Coyle, in the seventh round for continuous holding.

Greater Manchester Police are to examine the role that alcohol played in the night's events. Some witnesses reported that many fans had been drinking.

A spokesman for Frank Warren's Sports Network, which promoted the show, said that no comment would be made as the violence had not hap-

pened in the boxing arena. The British Boxing Board of Control said: "We deeply regret this tragic loss of life of a young man who had come to enjoy himself at a boxing tournament. There had been no trouble inside the hall and the boxing that had taken place had been enjoyable and robustly supported, apart from a disappointing main event."

Violence at boxing bouts is becoming more regular. The most recent outbreak was last July, when fans of Michael Smyth threw chairs and punches as he lost to Godff McCreech in a British welterweight title bout in Reading.

Some bouts may attract football hooligans. The Football Intelligence Unit of the National Criminal Intelligence Service has attended boxing matches, notably the light-middleweight contest between Robert McCracken, a Birmingham City fan, and Steve Foster, a Manchester United fan, in 1994.

Boxing, page 38

## Murdered girl's body found in shallows

BY MICHAEL HARVEY

THE body of a 15-year-old girl was found in a lake by two boys skateboarding at the weekend. She had been murdered.

The body of Rachel Glenn was discovered in the shallows at Charnwood Water in Loughborough, Leicestershire. She had disappeared on Wednesday.

Police confirmed that Rachel died from drowning but said there were signs of a struggle and that head injuries may have been a contributory factor in her death.

The area was sealed off by police yesterday as divers searched the lake for clues. Officers also searched surrounding parkland.

Detective Superintendent Bryan Warraker, who is leading the investigation, said Rachel had last been seen by friends on Wednesday but was only reported missing by her mother on Friday. He said: "It was not unusual for Rachel to go off with her friends. On this occasion we were contacted when all the other checks her parents had done failed to locate her."

Police arrested an 18-year-old local youth yesterday in connection with the murder. He was being questioned at Loughborough police station.



Devon Aoki, the 16-year-old London schoolgirl who has become a top model

## Schoolgirl is a hit in fashion world

BY DEBORAH BRETT  
IN MILAN  
AND CLAUDIA JOSEPH

DONATELLA VERSACE unveiled her Versus line last night at Alcatraz, the Milan nightclub, with the help of her new muse Devon.

Measuring in at a mere 5ft 6in, Devon Aoki, the 16-year-old London schoolgirl, is even shorter than Kate Moss, who at 5ft 7in has an exception to the catwalk height rule of at least 5ft 10in. With long light-brown hair and hazel eyes, Devon has caught the eye of the fashion photographers Jürgen Teller and Steven Meisel, who featured her in Italian Vogue, and has landed the Chanel and Versus advertising campaigns as well as being a favourite of the designer Yohji Yamamoto.

She fits in modelling around her schoolwork and shot the Versus advertisements last week before returning to London to attend lessons for the rest of the week.

Sarah Doukas, managing director of the model agency Storm, signed Devon after Miss Moss, another client, spotted her in an American magazine. Ms Doukas, who knew Devon's parents previously, said: "She is one of the most successful girls in the world at the moment but is also very academic. The work she has done is exceptional."

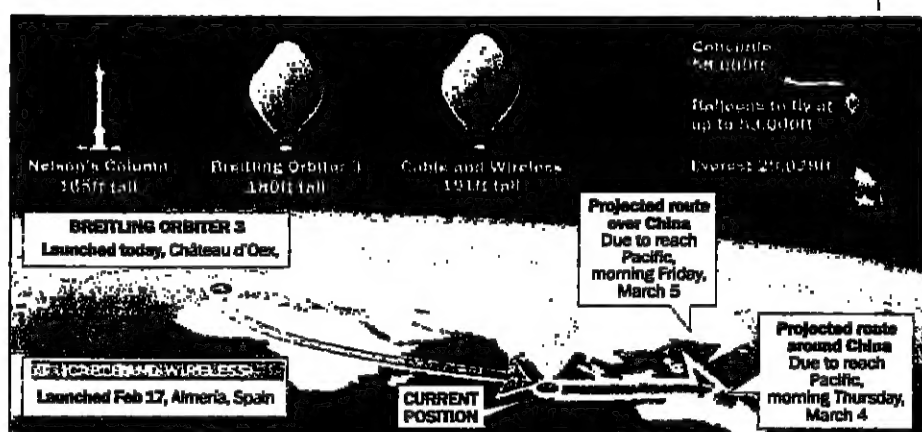
It is no longer seen as a hindrance for shorter girls to appear on the catwalk, as clothes are always fitted to each model beforehand.

The search for a new face, a representation of the look a label wants to achieve, has gathered pace to the point where a new muse is now proclaimed every season.

Devon, whose mother accompanies her on trips, seems unphased by all the attention. As a teenager she is more enamoured with skateboarding and bands than her modelling career.

Last night, after-show entertainment was provided by the Grammy award-winning Lenny Kravitz, who took to the stage for a one-hour concert.

## Rivals on tail of Briton who designed their balloon

FROM HELEN RUMBELOW  
IN CHATEAU D'OEX

THE record-breaking balloonists Andy Elson and Colin Prescott are facing a challenge from a craft due to be launched in Switzerland today. It would be the first time two round-the-world attempts have been pitted against each other in the air.

Bertrand Piccard, a Swiss psychiatrist, and Brian Jones, a British ballooning instructor, are attempting lift-off in Breiðling Orbiter 3. Although Mr Elson and Mr Prescott have more than ten days' start, they are handicapped by being unable to catch the fast winds over China.

All British-registered balloons were banned from China after Richard Bran-

son trespassed into its air space at Christmas. This has cost the Cable and Wireless team nearly a week as it made a detour. Mr Elson and Mr Prescott, who beat the world record of ten days in the air over Burma on Saturday, are moving at a frustrating 25mph as they try to clear the Bay of Bengal without drifting north to China.

They predict they will reach the Pacific by Thursday at the earliest. Mr Piccard and Mr Jones aim to tail them into the Pacific by Friday and may overtake shortly afterwards if their winds are favourable.

Mr Elson has built his own possible Nemesis: the Breiðling team is taking advantage of his balloon design from when he was its engineer and pilot last year. He spent nine days aloft with Mr Pic-

card, an attempt also thwarted by a Chinese ban. Although they are both balloon fanatics — Mr Piccard is the grandson of Auguste Piccard, who invented the modern balloon capsule — there was a personal clash and Mr Elson left Breiðling soon after their crash landing last year.

His consolation in the present rivalry is that he left the Swiss team without the expertise to work his unique kerosene fuel system. The Breiðling crew admits that Mr Elson's invention "offered an enormous advantage" but has been forced to switch back to the more conventional propane.

This means that the Cable and Wireless team are carrying 25 days' fuel while Breiðling has enough only for 21 days, because propane is heavier to store.

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# TV presenter is critical after police accident

BY MICHAEL HARVEY

THE award-winning broadcaster Sheena McDonald remained in a critical condition yesterday after being hit by a police van.

The 44-year-old journalist suffered serious head injuries when she was knocked down just before midnight on Friday in Islington, North London, as the van was answering an emergency call.

Doctors at the University College Hospital in Euston said that Ms McDonald, a veteran presenter of *Channel 4 News*, *The World This Week* and BBC's *On The Record*, remained in an intensive care unit.

Her family was last night maintaining a bedside vigil at the hospital. Despite her injuries, it is understood that there are no immediate plans for Ms McDonald to undergo surgery.

Ms McDonald began her career as a newsreader with BBC Radio Scotland. She spent eight years at Scottish Television before moving to London to begin work for Channel 4.

Stuart Cosgrove, the Scottish-based head of programmes at Channel 4, said yesterday: "Sheena is a great stalwart of Channel 4 and an important broadcaster. All our

thoughts are with her and we hope she makes a speedy recovery."

Yesterday Alan Little, Ms McDonald's boyfriend, joined her family at the hospital after flying in from Moscow, where he is the BBC's correspondent. Mr Little, a former war reporter who has won awards for his coverage of the Gulf War and the war in Bosnia, has been with Ms McDonald for four years.

Gordon Brown, who was romantically linked with Ms McDonald while they were at Edinburgh University in the 1970s and again in 1994, is also being kept informed of her condition. The Chancellor, who

spent the weekend in Scotland with his fiancée, Sarah Macaulay, remains a close friend.

Reports emerged in 1994 that the pair were seeing each other again before Mr Brown began his relationship with Ms Macaulay, a public relations company executive, later that year.

Ms McDonald, who chaired the judging panel for the Orange Fiction Prize last year, was knocked down in St John's Street, Islington. The police van, which had its blue lights flashing and siren on, was answering an emergency call to a fight on nearby Holloway Road.

Scotland Yard said that the driver, a 27-year-old constable, had been suspended from driving and that an investigation launched as part of standard procedure.

Both the driver and his 30-year-old colleague were unhurt.

Thirty-eight people, including six police officers, died in accidents involving police vehicles in London over the six years to 1998. During the year 1997/98 there were 5,710 police accidents. Police officers were found to be at least partially at fault in more than 2,000 of them.



McDonald: suffered severe head injuries



A young Carry On fan admiring a poster of Kenneth Williams. His one-time co-star, Patsy Rowlands, said that the films "didn't have a deep meaning"

BY HANNAH BETTS

A NEW generation is rebelling against new Labour's prissy nanny state by crying "Oooh, Matron!" and embracing the 31 politically incorrect films of the *Carry On* canon.

The academic Andy Medhurst told a conference at the National Film Theatre — a London venue better known for screening the classic films of Andrei Tarkovsky, Krzysztof Kieślowski and Akira Kurosawa — that the comedy classics had found themselves a new audience.

"In Blair's Britain we're always being told to be decent, upstanding citizens," said Dr Medhurst, a senior lecturer in media studies at Sussex Uni-

## New generation falls for Carry On classics

versity. "It's no surprise that people turn to something that says 'So! That. Let's get drunk and have a bit of a grope and a laugh'."

"What used to be the preserve of a working-class audience has acquired a cult status with a young, mainly middle-class, clientele."

"In the 1960s middle-class youth held the films in contempt. On a Saturday night they'd all be off to the Hamp-

stead Everyman to see the new Antonioni. Now there's been a post-modern shift and suddenly *Carry Ons* have what we might call cultural capital."

Dr Medhurst was joined on stage by the *Carry On* actress Patsy Rowlands and photography director Alan Hume. Both said that their new fans look for too much meaning in the films. "Students do read so many things into it," said Ms Rowlands. "I

get letters asking 'What were you thinking when you said that line?' The truth is I was probably thinking about what I'd be picking up from Sainsbury's on the way home. It didn't have a deep meaning."

But Andrew Spearman, 25, defended fans of his generation. "I don't think it's something we take too seriously. It's just a bit of fun — a Sunday afternoon thing that we all grew up with. There is an element of ironic appreciation, of course, but I wouldn't say it's the main factor."

□ In May, Pinewood studios will cash in on the trend with its first official *Carry On Day* — a *Carry On*-style event involving coach parties and a buffet lunch.

## Advertisers not amused by sitcom's failure

£500,000 for first 2000 slot

BY CAROL MIDGLEY, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

BY CAROL MIDGLEY, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

ITV efforts to attract the viewers with a comedy based on a successful American series have failed to impress public and critics alike. *Days Like These*, which had been hoped would end ITV's reputation for mediocre sitcoms, may now be scrapped.

Based on the top-ranking American series *That 70s Show*, it was made under the auspices of the US team Carney-Werner, producers of *Roseanne*. It is set in 1976 and centres on a group of teenagers trying to circumvent the authority of their parents. In the American version they live in Wisconsin; in the British version, Luton. But critics say the concept does not work on this side of the Atlantic.

David Liddiment, ITV's director of programmes, commissioned an initial 12 episodes with an option for ten more. However, it is now likely that the second batch will be cancelled and sources say the series may even be dropped before the end of its current run.

Pressure is building on ITV executives, as advertisers were promised the show would win audiences of up to 10 million. Instead, fewer than six million people have tuned in.

The show, shown on Friday evenings, is so far absent from ITV's schedule for March 12 — when BBC1 broadcasts *Comic Relief*. Insiders say executives fear its ratings may collapse when it is pitted against the popular fundraiser, and an edition of *You've Been Framed* is to be shown instead.

An ITV source said: "It's difficult to see how it can last at this rate. The figures have dropped as low as four million at some points in the programme and the advertisers are not going to stand for that. In commercial television you have to deliver the goods but so far *Days Like These* has failed to do that."

It is not the first time that attempts to anglicise an American show have failed, although the idea has worked well in the opposite direction.

COMPANIES bidding to become the last television advertiser in this millennium and the first in the next could have to pay up to £1 million for the privilege.

Experts predict that a 30-second national slot either side of midnight could cost more than £500,000, compared with a usual peak-time rate of £100,000.

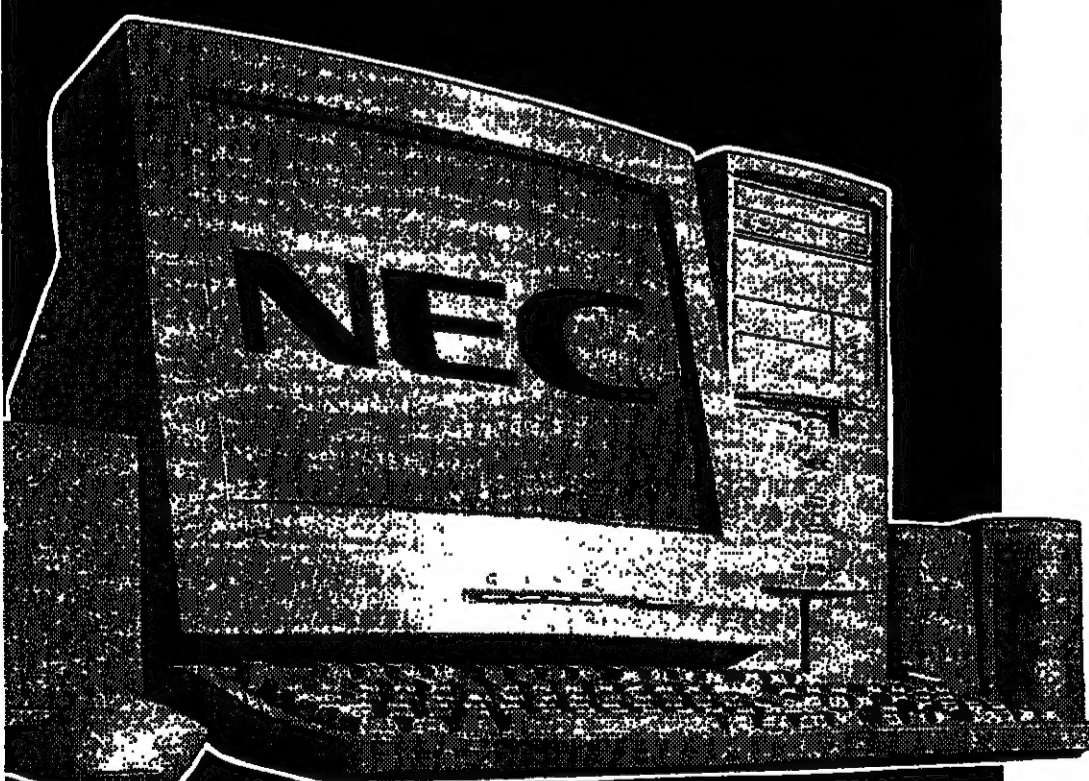
One advertiser, Abbey National, is known to have approached ITV stations to buy up the first-in-2000 slot. Another contender for the opening commercial is Whitehall's publicity machine, the Central Office of Information.

Granada Media Sales, which handles advertising for five ITV areas, has been approached by about a dozen companies interested in securing advertisements.

Jo Brinkman, publicity officer, said: "A lot of people turn on their TVs to see Big Ben chime in the New Year and there is a certain amount of kudos about being first in 2000. We obviously want to maximise revenue as well as being fair."

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£1 million+	5.70%	5.65%

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With effect from:	2.72%	2.75%
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While in Buenos Aires, Kate Archer's **meeting**  
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# Hague to seek ways of saving the pound

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

WILLIAM HAGUE hardened the Conservative Party's anti-euro stance yesterday by announcing a policy commission to investigate keeping the pound and withdrawing from cross-party preparations for the single currency.

He warned senior Tories to campaign for the party's candidates rather than members of the new Pro-Euro Conservative Party in the forthcoming European elections. Under pressure because of poor poll ratings and further signs of Tory divisions on the issue, Mr Hague declared that anyone failing to back official candidates would be "out on their ear".

Kenneth Clarke and Michael Heseltine have not denied reports that they met Tony Blair and Gordon Brown in advance of last week's publication of the National Changeover Plan for the euro. It is unlikely, however, that they would back non-official candidates.

Mr Hague's announcement of a policy commission, expected to be headed by a former Cabinet minister and containing economists and City experts, showed that he is ready to put himself at the head of the anti-euro campaign.

He said that the commission would assess how Britain could take fullest advantage of its own currency. "I'm going to make sure that the facts and the information and the debate is there, to make sure people really do have a choice."

He added in a reference to today's introduction of the New Europe group: "Other people in other parties, like David Owen, are going to join me in making sure that the country has a choice. I'm very happy to be on that side of the argument, so let battle commence."

Mr Hague said the Conservatives would withdraw from the cross-party committee that

will oversee the National Changeover Plan examining how the euro could replace the pound, announced by Mr Blair last Tuesday. "The nature of that committee has changed. It is now to prepare for the introduction of the euro in Britain and to do so without having sought the consent of the voters... I think that is wrong," he told BBC Radio 4's *The World This Weekend*.

David Davis, who until yesterday was the Tory member on the committee, said that it was about little more than trying to convince the public that the euro was inevitable.

"The Government should not attempt to pre-empt the decision of the British people," he said. "It is constitutionally unsound and democratically improper. It is now clear that the Government's intention is that the pound is to perish. I will have no part of this."

□ The Pro-Euro Conservative Party said that it would field at least five candidates in the summer's European elections. Its leaders John Stevens and Brendan Donnelly will be joined by two more former Tory MEPs, Paul Howell, who represented Norfolk for 15 years until 1994, and Andrew Pearce, Member for Cheshire West and Wirral for ten years until 1999, and a former journalist, Richard Bassett. Mr Pearce resigned from the Conservative list of candidates for the North West to join the new party. Mr Stevens said: "We are announcing our decision to stand as candidates in this year's European elections to assure Conservative voters that they will have a choice in June between the Euroscepticism offered by William Hague's candidates and a positive attitude towards Europe, in particular towards the euro."

Peter Riddell, page 20  
Leading article and  
Letters, page 21



Lord Owen, once backed by Lord Sainsbury of Turville, left, is now supported by Lord Sainsbury of Preston Candover

## Trouble is in store as euro splits the Sainsbury family

THE emergence today of New Europe, the group opposed to Britain joining the single currency, confirms the political split in one of Britain's richest families.

One of the financial backers of the campaign is Lord (John) Sainsbury of Preston Candover, cousin of Lord (David) Sainsbury of Turville, the Science Minister, who gave up the post of chairman of the supermarket giant last year, having taken over from his older cousin John. When he joined Tony Blair's Government, the 391-store group was left without a Sainsbury family member for the first time in its 129-year history.

The dynasty has long been associated with politics. John's brother, Sir Tim Sainsbury, was a minister in the previous Tory Government. Sir Tim's son-in-law is Shaun Woodward, Conservative MP for Witney, and a former Tory spin doctor.

But for David Sainsbury the birth of New Europe, under Lord Owen, may be an unhappy event. He, after all, is a close friend of David Owen and helped to

Minister will not be happy that cousin backs New Europe, writes Philip Webster

bankroll the Social Democratic Party in its early days; pro-Europeanism was one of the party's guiding policies.

With the demise of the SDP and Labour's shift to electability, David Sainsbury became close to Mr Blair, gave large sums to the Labour Party, and ended up in the Government, in which he serves as an enthusiastic Europhile.

His political rift with his cousin will surprise few observers of the retail trade. The word has long been that they do not get on. John Sainsbury, a senior executive for a lengthy period during which it overtook Marks & Spencer as Britain's

most profitable retailer, has been said to be a hard-headed autocrat. He was known for pacing his stores, checking that the produce was fresh, the cars stacked properly, and living the maxim he inherited from his father: "Retail is detail."

David, by contrast, was always regarded as quiet, thoughtful and approachable. He was quoted at the time of his succession as saying of his cousin: "He loses his temper and I don't."

David's father, Lord Sainsbury of Drury Lane, the grandson of the founders of the chain, died last year at the age of 96. He too was involved in politics, standing as a Liberal candidate, joining Labour and then the SDP.

The Sainsburys are proud of their record of supporting political initiatives. Their tastes are various. Last year a one-off edition of *Martins Today* thanked "James Sainsbury for his very generous donation." James is the son of Sir Tim. His sister Camilla is married to Mr Woodward.

### THE OPPOSITION

**Democracy Movement**  
The multi-issue businessmen Paul Sykes formed movement which backs Sir James Goldsmith's Referendum Party and is campaigning for "Democracy Day" this month supporters will be asked to "sign a petition to save the pound".

**European for Sterling**  
Heavyweight organisation that will marshal anti-euro forces in City and business worlds. Cross-party, fronted by Lord Marsh.

**Global Britain**  
Think-tank with uncompromising anti-European attitude, founded last year by the Tory peer Lord Pearson of Rannoch. Believes in complete withdrawal from Europe.

**European Group**  
Created to support philosophy of stridently anti-Brussels speech, Lord Bessborough, delivered in Brussels in 1988.

**Conservative Party**  
Group backed by MPs such as Teresa Gorman who defied John Major and were excluded from Tory ranks in Parliament.

**European Foundation**  
Run by the backbench Tory MP Bill Goss. Publishes monthly magazine, *European Journal*.

**European Movement**  
Group chaired by Sir Michael Spicer, focuses on mobilising political opposition to Europe. Based in London as organisation to bring together European right-wing MPs from other European countries.

**European Movement for Britain**  
Right-wing organisation set up during Common Market membership referendum. Run by Lord Stoddart of Swanton and Sir Richard Bony, Tory backbencher.

**European Movement Party**  
Group set up to oppose the single currency and its leader Alan Sheed.

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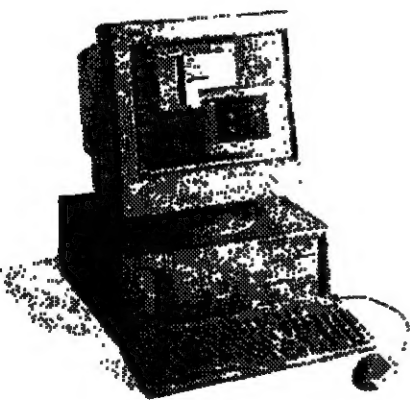
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مكتبة من الكتب



# Border row is putting Rock out of business

THE Spanish border guard amused his colleague with an animated joke, swapped cigarettes and slowly sipped his coffee as the line of vehicles waiting to leave Gibraltar stretched further than he could see.

At the front of the queue Edward Franks had been waiting five hours to cross the frontier into Spain. Usually this is a formality but the self-employed businessman said: "Spain appears to be at war with Gibraltar and nobody in Britain seems to have noticed."

When Mr Franks, 46, loses patience and asks the grinning guards to let him pass, they order his family out of the car. One guard takes out his pen-knife and jabs at the upholstery of the Franks' new Audi, looking for contraband and drugs. The other frisks Dany Franks, 7, who is forced to remove his jacket and put his hands in the air.

The search takes 20 minutes, during which the queue to leave the Rock grows still longer. Gibraltar officials weave between the cars encouraging drivers to complain and giving out the telephone numbers of the Spanish and British politicians whom they blame.

It began with a spat over fishing rights. Gibraltar's Chief Minister, Peter Caruana, thought that he had settled the problem with the Spanish

**Families on both sides say their livelihoods are under threat, reports Daniel McGrory**

fishing crews, but the Spanish Foreign Minister, Abel Matutes, complained that this was his and Robin Cook's job. A little local difficulty then escalated into a revival of the conflict over the near 300-year British sovereignty of the Rock, and Spain made a point by tightening up its border controls.

Across the wire fence of no man's land, Gerry Monteverde, a complaints officer, makes an unladylike gesture to the diminutive Spanish Civil Guard causing the worst of the hold-up. "They want to starve us into submission and we feel bullied by Madrid and we feel betrayed by London. They accuse everyone in Gibraltar of being drug dealers and tobacco smugglers. But all that happens on the Spanish side of the frontier, not ours," she says.

She points to a group of women in wearing baggy tracksuits, who are busy hiding cartons of cigarettes inside their clothing until they look

like the Michelin man. They waddle through the customs post, waved on by a Spanish guard, to the town of La Linea just 20 yards away.

There a man with slicked-back hair and wraparound sunglasses sits on a wall behind the customs shed, buying as many cartons of cigarettes as the women can carry. He offers bribes of pesetas to a coachload of elderly Britons to join his smuggling run. Several stroll back across to the border kiosk where a packet of 20 costs less than 80p. Three minutes walk away, in Spain, it sells for more than £2.

Ms Monteverde says: "The Spanish guards ignore such flagrant smuggling and instead delay law-abiding workers and tourists on their Government's orders."

The procession of cigarette women continues night and day. More than 1,000 families in La Linea are said to rely on this cigarette smuggling for their only income.

Three thousand people from La Linea legally work on the Rock and are protesting to their own Government that the border restrictions threaten their livelihood. Francisco Manueles, a computer engineer, says he missed three appointments because of the delays. "My Government is costing me money, and my Gibraltar customers will use someone on the Rock if this goes on."



A wait of four hours is common at the border, where Spanish guards conduct exhaustive checks on all travellers

Thirty people a week from La Linea are said to be losing their jobs in Gibraltar and many are having pay docked for arriving late. They are planning a demonstration on Wednesday which could bring the border to a standstill.

The Rock is suffering, too. Shops are deserted, offices close early and the 147 bars packed onto the 2½ square miles complain that daytrippers are staying away in their thousands. Fuming in the front-

tier traffic jam, Alfred Duo, 72, can take no more. "I was born here, but I'm leaving Gibraltar for good because of the bloody-mindedness of my Spanish neighbours, which is getting worse."

There is no shooting in this border skirmish, just obstructive pettiness. Drivers who do not carry a blanket in the boot in case of an accident, as required by Spanish law, may be turned back after waiting hours. Back in the traffic jam,

Ms Monteverde points to where the Gibraltar authorities installed cameras last week to broadcast the Spanish petulance live on the Internet.

Hours later the Spanish retaliated by stringing a 20ft sheet of green canvas between two trees to block the cameras. They plan a more permanent barrier made of aluminium.

"The Berlin Wall has gone but on this frontier of the new free Europe we will have the Aluminium Blockade," says

Charles Collinson, the chief complaints officer, as drivers ask the reason for the delay.

One enterprising tour guide tried to profit from the dispute yesterday. He went across the border to tempt tourists on the Costas to come to photograph the Rock's latest attraction — "stodgy Spanish cops causing Europe's worst traffic jam".

They were ferried back and forth on motorbikes to beat the queue that Gibraltarians fear is without end.

## Minister urges Blair to get tough with Spain

By DANIEL MCGRORY

THE Chief Minister of Gibraltar, Peter Caruana, last night urged Tony Blair to "get tough" with Spain over the border blockade.

Mr Blair has arranged an Anglo-Spanish summit for April, but Mr Caruana said the Rock could not wait that long. "Tourism is already down to 20 per cent of what it should be. Who is going to come for a day trip from Spain when it can take seven hours to get across the border?"

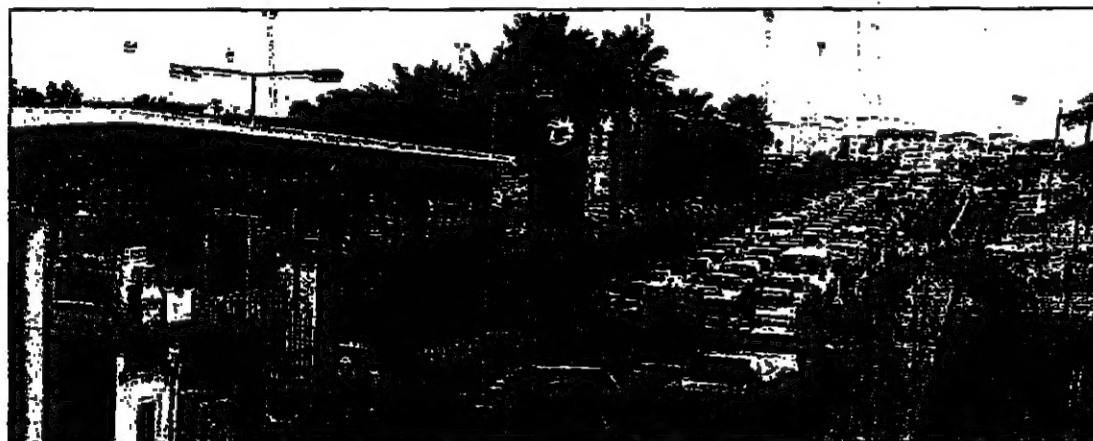
"The integrity of our financial centre is being slurred by allegations that we are money launderers... the Foreign Office has applauded our stringent banking and financial laws, but this mud from Spain might stick."

The language on both sides of the border is far from diplomatic. Mr Caruana blames the Spanish Foreign Minister, Abel Matutes, who he says is "a liar, a hypocrite and an economic illiterate."

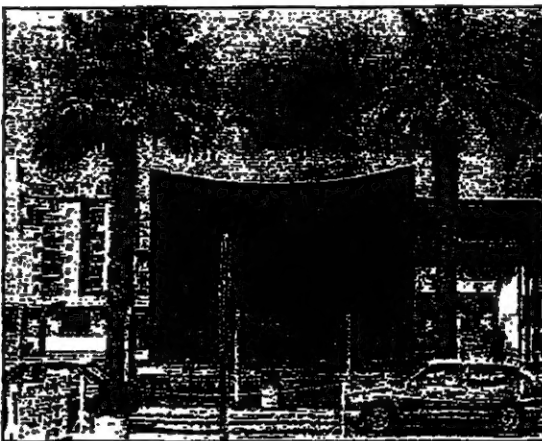
"He says we are parasites who should be eliminated. Language like that hasn't been used in Europe since Nazi Germany."

The dispute concerns proposals sent to Whitehall by Señor Matutes in December 1997 for a new sovereignty deal.

"There was a threat implied from Señor Matutes that if we didn't accept what he thought were very generous sovereignty proposals, there would be an aggressive campaign to bring us to our knees," Mr Caruana said. "I don't lose a minute's sleep thinking Tony Blair is going to give away Gibraltar but perhaps Señor Matutes thinks differently, so the Prime Minister should spell it out: 'We stay British'."



Gibraltar officials set up cameras to broadcast the source of the obstruction on the Internet, but the Spanish threw up a canvas screen. One business not affected by the dispute is the cross-border trade in cigarettes



### NET LINKS

<http://frontier.gibraltar.gov> Website of the Gibraltar Frontier showing four-lane traffic and pedestrians queuing to get into Spain  
<http://www.gibraltar.gov> The Gibraltar homepage with links to the Gibraltar Tourist Board, Finance Centre and Port  
<http://www.self-determination.gi> The website of the Self-determination for Gibraltar Campaign

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# Caught in the conservation net

Efforts to save spring salmon include a ban on coraclemen, writes Simon de Bruxelles

THERE is one species more endangered than the occasional spring salmon that makes a daring foray up the River Tywi in South Wales.

The coracle fishermen, who for generations have plied the river in their tiny cockle-shell boats, are the unintended victims of well-meaning but probably futile attempts to save the salmon. Just a dozen of the fishermen — largely nocturnal creatures — are left on the Tywi, compared with more than 300 at the turn of the century. Their main catch is the plentiful sea trout, but as their nets could also entangle the early salmon they have been caught in a nationwide ban.

The fishing season will start today, but no one knows how long it will last. The Environment Agency wants to stop salmon fishing until June 1 to give stocks time to recover. As soon as Alun Michael, the Welsh Secretary, signs the new bylaws, the coracle men will have to hang up their nets. With their season cut to two months and no hope of recouping the cost of their £400 annual fishing licence, a 2,000-year-old way of life will end.

Last week, Mike Elias, the leader of Wales's last 25 licensed coracle fishermen, carried his tiny boat down to the Tywi for what he fears may be one of the last times. Mr Elias, 48, has been fishing the river since he was 12, as the men in his family have done for generations. By day he is an electrician, but every night during the season he is on the river. Anglers don't like the coraclemen because they fish commercially, and the Environment Agency regards them as an economically irrelevant anachronism. Mr Elias's contention that the tradition should be preserved fell on unsympathetic ears — the agency says that as the coraclemen fish at night there is little chance of tourists seeing them.

The agency also objects to the fibreglass coracles favoured by some fishermen since a dam was built on the Tywi near Llandovery in 1968, lowering the level of the river and making it easier to run aground, and it says that their economic benefit to the region is insignificant. The agency does concede that there are very few early-run salmon in the Tywi — Mr Elias says that five salmon last year, all of them summer fish.

The chain through which the ancient skills are handed down from one generation to the next is already being broken. Peter Hopkins has refused all entreaties from his 15-year-old son, Christopher, to teach him how to fish. "I was born on the quayside



Mike Elias carrying his coracle along the River Tywi in South Wales. "This is the first year since records began in the 1700s that there won't be an Elias on the river," he said.

in Carmarthen with my finger in the river," he said. "The Tywi runs through my blood. I don't want this to get into my son like it has got into me and then have it taken away from him."

The agency issues just 12 licences for the Tywi, 12 for the Teifi and one for the Taf. Most of the coraclemen have day jobs and fish at night for catches that, if they are lucky, will just cover their expenses. "I work during the day in order to be able to fish. No one could make a living out of it any more," Mr Elias said. "I remember when I used to go out with the old man and we would carry home 50 pounds of fish. Today you are doing very well if you catch ten pounds."

The coraclemen work in pairs, drifting downriver with their net strung out between them. At the end of each run they carry their coracles and their catch back to their starting point and begin again. It is not unusual for them to walk 20 miles in a night with the lightweight boats strapped to their backs. Mr Elias never wears a lifejacket, despite the fact that his coracle is no bigger than a bathtub and made only of pitch-covered calico and split hazel. He can't swim, but years of experience have given him perfect balance.

"That's the way it's always been in my family. The old-timers used to tie the young ones to the seat of the coracle with a couple of feet of rope so if it turned over they knew where to find them," he said.

What particularly galls the fishermen is that the National Rivers Authority, the Environment Agency's predecessor, was partly responsible for the dam that played a major part in the Tywi salmon's decline. The efforts of fish that manage to pass the dam and reach their spawning ground are wasted because runoff from conifer plantations has made the water too acidic for the fry to survive.

Last week's practice paddle could be the closest that Mr Elias gets to the river this season as he missed the January 1 licence application deadline.

"It is bureaucracy at its best," he said. "This is the first year since records began in the 1700s that there won't be an Elias on the river — and probably for long before that."

Hotels renowned for salmon fishing are bracing themselves for "substantial losses" this season with the arrival of rules requiring anglers to throw fish back.

The Environment Agency is proposing bylaws on English and Welsh rivers to conserve stock by banning live bait and making it mandatory to throw back fish migrating to spawning grounds until June 16.

As the season started today on some of the great salmon rivers, such as the Torridge and Torr in Devon, the proposals were awaiting the attention of ministers, who are expected to confirm them soon.

Hoteliers on prime fishing rivers claim that the rules, which rob anglers of the thrill of hooking and eating a prized fish, will cause many regulars to forsake Britain for salmon-fishing holidays

abroad. Countries such as Chile, Argentina and Norway are being heavily promoted as alternatives.

Up to 100 hotels and their staff are likely to be affected by the bylaws. Philippa Hughes, who runs the Holme Chase Hotel on Dartmoor, said yesterday that the proposals were already putting fishermen off. "About 30 per cent of our business is during the fishing season, from May through to August," she said. At weekends, eight or nine of the hotel's 17 bedrooms would be occupied by anglers.

The indications are that this could be halved," Mrs Hughes said. Losses could amount to "tens of thousands of pounds".

Charles Inniss, who owns the Half Moon Inn at Sheepwash, Devon, and ten miles of the Torridge, said that the

## Letting fish off the hook puts hoteliers in fear

BY NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

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### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Income not the figure that counts

Two thirds of the women who have breast enlargement or reduction, at a cost of up to £5,000, earn less than £25,000 a year, according to a survey by a cosmetic surgery group. The Harley Medical Group said: "Cosmetic surgery is not these days for the frivolously rich and lavishly vain." The women wanted to look more "statistically normal" and to have figures that were in proportion, so that it was easier for them to find clothes in high-street stores that fitted. Most took some years to decide whether to have surgery.

#### School drug trip

Berkshire schoolchildren are to visit cannabis cafes in Amsterdam's red-light district as part of an education project to prevent drug abuse. The scheme, organised by Thames Valley Police, has angered some parents and teachers.

#### Oasis on Mars

Evidence of the whereabouts of water-bearing minerals on Mars has been found by astronomers using the Hubble space telescope. Regions containing rusted iron minerals such as haematite have also been located.

#### Victim named

A teenager whose body was found by a policeman in Northampton on Saturday has been named as Andrew Boyce, 18. Police disclosed that he had been beaten to death in his bed-sit, and his body dragged out and dumped on waste ground.

#### Tubby triumph

The BBC has commissioned 105 more episodes of *Teletubbies*. Filming by Ragdoll Productions will begin in the spring at the company's outdoor set in Warwickshire for programmes that will be broadcast over three years.

#### Toad safety

A road in the Nottinghamshire village of Oxon will be closed for a month from today to let thousands of common toads cross safely from hibernation sites to breeding ponds. A third of the toads have been killed in previous years.

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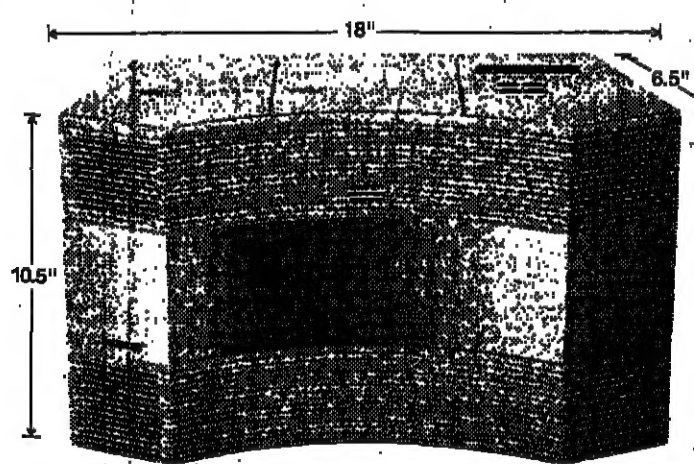
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# Israelis hit back as top general in Lebanon killed

FROM NICHOLAS BLANFORD IN BEIRUT

ISRAELI warplanes last night bombed Hezbollah militia positions at Baalbek in eastern Lebanon after Israel's senior commander in south Lebanon was killed along with three others by a roadside bomb near the village of Kawkaba in the border zone occupied by the Jewish state.

Hezbollah guerrillas as well as Lebanese and Syrian troops retaliated with anti-aircraft fire, reports said. Israel was also bombed from Lebanon by either rockets or mortars, military officials said.

Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, fighting an election battle dominated by security issues, ordered the attack in retaliation for the death of Brigadier-General Erez Gerstein.

General Gerstein, 38, was the most senior Israeli officer to be killed in Lebanon since

the 1982 invasion. His death, coming less than a week after three officers from an elite Israeli commando unit were killed in a Hezbollah ambush, has added to the climate of uncertainty in Lebanon during the period preceding the elections in May. Seven Israelis have been killed in the occupation zone this year. Last year, 24 Israeli soldiers died and 100 were wounded.

Hezbollah, the Shia Muslim group which spearheads efforts to oust the Israeli Army from the occupation zone, claimed responsibility for the latest ambush. "This operation confirms our determination to continue our struggle until we have liberated our land," Naim Qassem, Hezbollah's deputy secretary-general, said.

General Gerstein, two other soldiers and an Israeli journal-

ist were killed when their convoy was targeted by the bomb ten miles north of the frontier with Israel. The general's car was destroyed.

Just 25 minutes later, Hezbollah guerrillas detonated a second bomb along the same stretch of road as an Israeli military vehicle passed. The occupants were reported unhurt.

General Gerstein's death was greeted by jubilation among the Lebanese, but it renewed fears that Mr Netanyahu will repeat the actions of his predecessor, Shimon Peres, by unleashing a military offensive against Hezbollah to garner votes from the security-conscious Israeli public.

In the run-up to the 1996 elections, Mr Peres launched the 16-day Grapes of Wrath air and artillery offensive in which 170 Lebanese civilians were killed.



Binyamin Netanyahu on his arrival at Jordan's Royal Palace in Amman yesterday

## Netanyahu anger Jordan with 'ally of Saddam' claim

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN AMMAN

THE Israeli Prime Minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, yesterday struggled to defuse a serious crisis in relations with Jordan provoked by a speech in which he suggested that the Hashemite kingdom could again ally itself with President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Mr Netanyahu's claim cast a shadow over his Amman talks yesterday with Jordan's new ruler, King Abdullah II — the first between the two since they spoke briefly at King Hussein's funeral. As Israeli officials mounted a damage control exercise after the speech provoked a furore in Jordan and among his political rivals in Israel, Mr Netanyahu tried to dismiss the dispute as a "storm in a teacup".

Hard-pressed Israeli diplomats denied that the King's refusal to appear at a joint press conference with the Israeli leader was a snub. One Israeli official said that yesterday's appearance of Mr Netanyahu with Faysal Tarawneh, the Jordanian Prime Minister, was "a matter purely of protocol and the fact that the King

is still in the 40-day official mourning period".

Jordanian anger was reflected by the *Jordan Times*, which called Mr Netanyahu's remarks a "gross misrepresentation of historical fact, demonstrating once again Netanyahu's complete lack of political sophistication". The daily paper, one of Amman's most moderate in its approach to the controversial 1994 Israel-Jordan peace treaty, accused him of "an inexcusable lack of consideration" towards Jordan's mourning.

In the speech Mr Netanyahu reminded an Israeli university audience that the late King had sided with Iraq during the 1990 Gulf crisis and the war to oust Iraq troops from Kuwait launched in 1991.

Days earlier the new King had met the expected future ruler of Syria, Bashar Assad, the son of President Assad, and a leading Jordanian opposition member, Leith Shubilat, had met Saddam. Both contacts were seen as ominous by Western diplomats.

## WORLD IN BRIEF

### Italian 'prejudice' outrages lecturers

Rome: More than 1,000 British and other foreign lecturers who teach at Italian universities will today present European socialist leaders with evidence that Italy is "breaking European Union law" by discriminating against them "on grounds of nationality" (Richard Owen writes).

The lecturers are staging a two-day strike to coincide with a conference in Milan to co-ordinate campaign plans for the forthcoming European parliamentary elections. Those at the meeting will include Tony Blair, Gerhard Schröder, the German Chancellor and Lionel Jospin, the French Prime Minister.

### Iraq says raid killed 3

Baghdad: Three Iraqis, including a child, were killed and several others were injured in US air raids on villages in the northern no-fly zone, an Iraqi military spokesman said. The US said in a statement earlier from Incirlik air base in Turkey that F15E fighter jets launched three air-to-ground missiles and dropped three laser-guided bombs on an Iraqi air defence headquarters and radio relay site in the zone. (AFP)

### Lusaka hit by blasts

Johannesburg: Zambia deployed police and troops in Lusaka after six bombs exploded in and around the capital. A guard was killed by the blast at the Angolan Embassy. Bombs also exploded at the American International School and the headquarters of the electricity suppliers. "We are treating this as a security crisis," Vincent Malambo, Legal Affairs Minister, said. (Reuters)

### Yeltsin back in hospital

Moscow: President Yeltsin was taken to hospital over the weekend in what has become a routine occurrence (Anna Blundy writes). The ulcer that first incapacitated him in January is still bleeding, apparently because of too much activity by the President, and his doctor has recommended hospital observation and a decrease in Mr Yeltsin's already much-depleted workload.

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Noor: beat up Anwar  
"under provocation"

## Chief of police admits assault

By DAVID WATTS

MALAYSIA'S former police chief admitted through his lawyer at the inquiry yesterday into Anwar Ibrahim's injuries that he had beaten up the former Deputy Prime Minister.

The inquiry was told that Abdul Rahim Noor had "lost his cool" after Mr Anwar accused him of being the "father of all dogs" and attacked him. The admission of the assault is another blow to the reputation of the Mahathir Government and its officers, and Mr Anwar's accusation of a conspiracy against him is gaining credibility among more and more Malaysians.

Teh Poh Teik, Mr Noor's lawyer, said the former police chief had acted under great provocation. However, Mr Anwar denied giving any insult and said there had been no conversation between himself and the two officers who came to his cell after he was detained last September 20.

He was speaking at an inquiry into allegations that he was beaten up after his arrest on charges of corruption and illegal sexual acts. The inquiry is being held separately from his trial on these charges.

Unusually, the hearing was held on a Sunday after the trial judge refused to adjourn hearings so that he might attend the inquiry.

# Nigeria poll rigged, claims loser

Observers say Obasanjo victory should stand despite cheating.  
Sam Kiley reports from Lagos

NIGERIA'S fragile transition from dictatorship to democracy was in jeopardy yesterday after Olu Falae refused to accept the victory of his opponent for the presidency, General Olusegun Obasanjo, amid widespread allegation of vote rigging.

Senior members of Mr Falae's All People's Party (APP) stormed out of the electoral commission offices and refused to continue participation in the counting process.

The 1993 elections, which were won by Chief Moshod Abiola, were annulled by the then military leader, General Ibrahim Babangida who used

squabbling between politicians as an excuse to stay in office himself. Results from 31 of the 36 states yesterday showed a lead for General Obasanjo of more than five million votes.

"I said if General Obasanjo won a free and fair election I would congratulate him but clearly this is not a free and fair election," Mr Falae said in his home town of Akure.

"The vote was completely

rigged," one of Mr Falae's aides said. "We have not had free and fair elections and Falae will contest this."

True to form, many Nigerians could not resist the temptation to rig their own elections. Jimmy Carter, the former US President, and many other international observers across the country reported widespread irregularities.

However, European Union

monitors said the results were in line with the will of the Nigerian people, despite widespread fraud.

"We judge that the result of the election reflects the wishes of the Nigerian people, marking the final and most important electoral stage in the transfer of power to a democratically elected civilian government," the EU monitors said in a statement.

However, the level of cheating appeared to be equally balanced between General Obasanjo's supporters and those of Mr Falae.

International approval for the elections is essential to Ni-

geria which had been economically crippled by 28 years of corrupt military rule out of the 38 since independence from Britain.

Mainly Western donors have prepared a \$15 billion (£900 million) rescue package for the world's sixth-largest oil producer which is unable to refine enough of its high-grade crude for domestic use because the military has deliberately run down refineries and profited from imported products.

Fuel queues lasting for days choke Lagos, Nigeria's largest city. In Abuja, the newly-built inland capital, senior civil ser-

vants have to buy their petrol on the black market.

General Obasanjo has pledged to "make Nigeria great again" but he faces a Herculean task in ridding the country of corruption and attracting new investment.

General Obasanjo, 61, a Baptist, did best in the north of the country where the mainly Muslim Hausa-Fulani tribes have traditionally feared a power shift to the South, the general's Yoruba heartland, where he polled the least votes.

Mr Falae is also a Yoruba.

The choice of both men as contestants for Nigeria's ultimate political prize was re-

garded as a means to reduce tensions between the north and south.

The general has two months to form a Cabinet before being sworn in by the outgoing military leader, General Abdulsalam Abubakar, on May 29.

He said that his priorities would be to stamp out corruption and bring economic growth to Nigeria. But Nigerians have heard it all before.

Picking through rubbish in Lagos, Ben Oluwalake, a beggar, shrugged his shoulders.

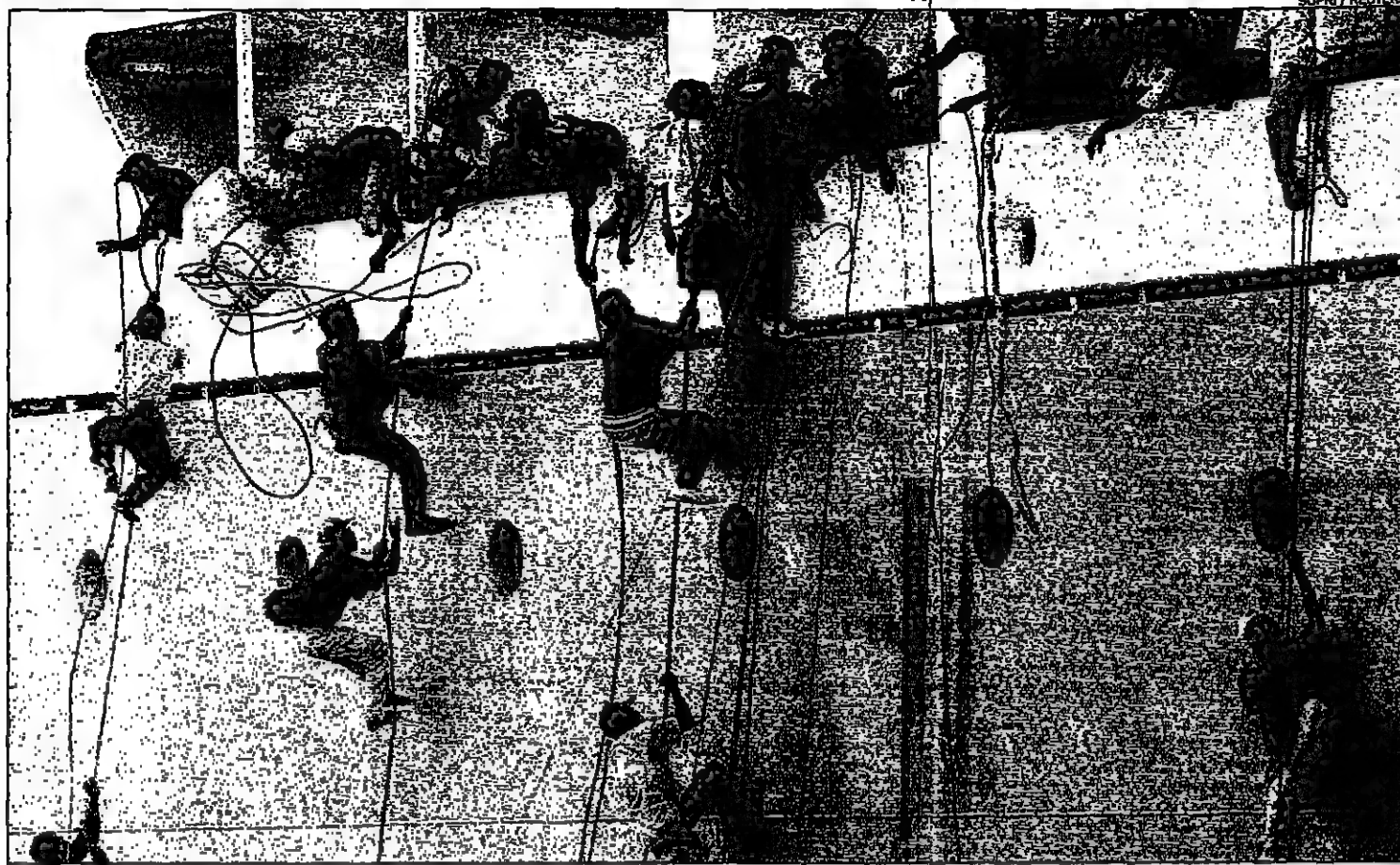
"What will democracy ever mean to me? I am nothing, we Nigerians are nothing to our leaders," he said.



## Refugees flee Indonesia island riots

Ambon: Some 1,300 people fled this riot-torn Indonesian city yesterday amid mounting tensions following the explosion of a homemade bomb late on Saturday.

A local journalist said there were no immediate reports of casualties



Refugees in Ambon scramble on to a Jakarta-bound vessel while, above left, Indonesian soldiers help a baby to board the ship

in Saturday night's bomb explosion at the town of Ambon. "Many houses, churches and mosques were burnt but we cannot confirm the numbers yet," he said.

Homemade explosives have been used frequently in recent clashes be-

tween Muslims and Christians in Indonesia's eastern spice islands. More than 160 people died in savage rioting in January and another flare-up has killed at least 24 in the past week.

Meanwhile, people jammed Am-

bon's port in an attempt to flee the city, which is 1,440 miles east of the capital. "There are about 1,300 people at Ambon's port rushing to board a ship heading for Jakarta," said a witness.

"I am scared of being killed. I am

also worried for my family's safety," one man said.

Indonesia has been racked by waves of ethnic and religious unrest over the past year, fuelled by the country's worst economic crisis in 30 years. (Reuters)

## Australia trims its fighting forces

FROM DAVID WATTS  
IN SYDNEY

THE Australian Army is turning out ruddy troops who it says are too fat to fight. Under a policy to weed out weaklings, almost 700 officers and other ranks—some of them women—are packing their kit-bags for civvy street.

They failed to meet the army's requirement that they must be able to run 1.5 miles in less than 12 minutes, pass a shooting test every year, be ready to travel overseas within 30 days and be medically fit with a good set of teeth.

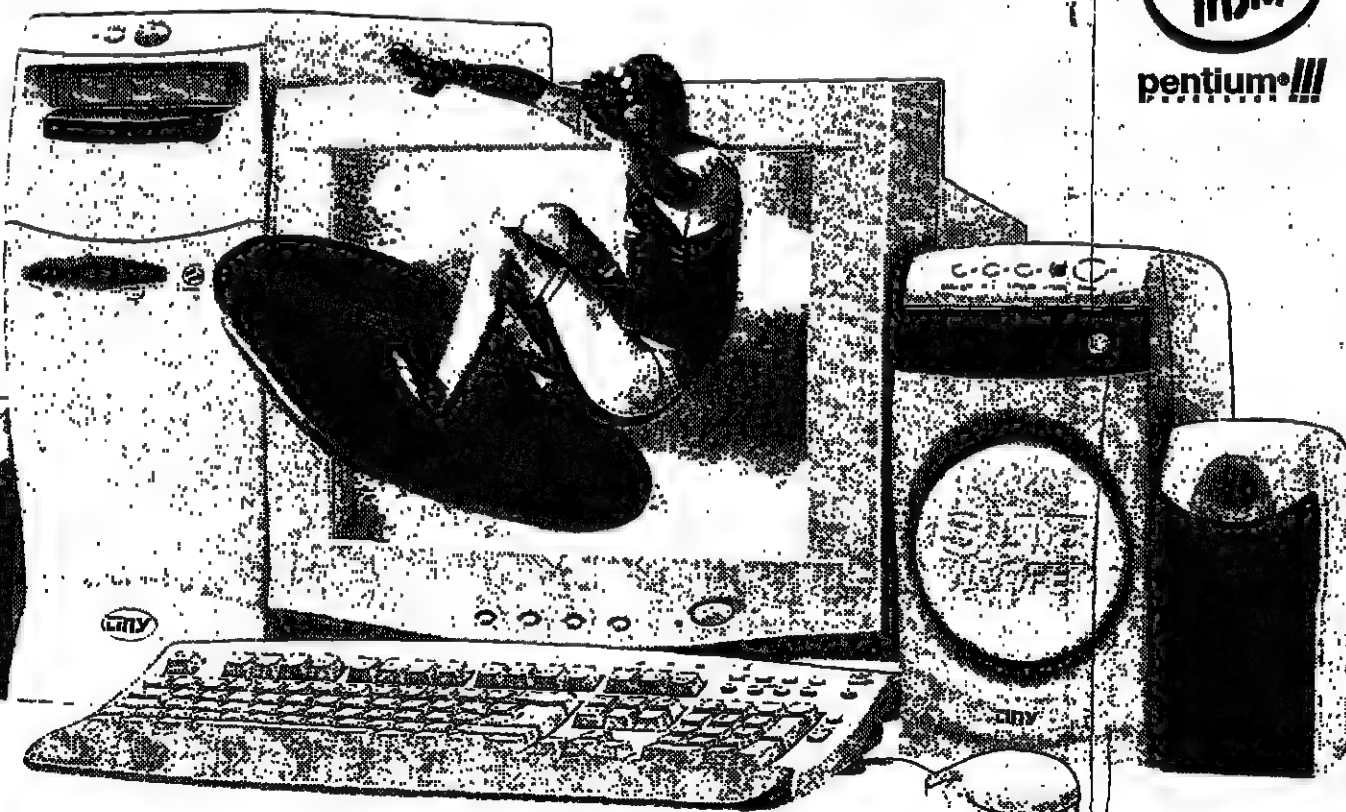
In the first year of the new rules, five officers and 42 soldiers were shown the door. Another 40 officers, including five senior lieutenant-colonels and 607 other ranks, have been given notice of discharge.

The revelation comes in the week Australia lost one of the few remaining legendary diggers who created the army's reputation at Gallipoli, a reputation for toughness reinforced in Vietnam but which appears to have slipped despite involvement in more post-Second World War conflicts than Britain.

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## Ethiopia claims victory in border dispute

FROM JAMES BONE  
IN NEW YORK

THE United Nations Security Council called at the weekend for an immediate halt to the fighting between Ethiopia and Eritrea amid fears that the newly landlocked Ethiopians would try to reclaim Red Sea ports ceded to their smaller neighbour when it gained independence in 1993.

The Ethiopian Government declared "total victory" yesterday in the eight-month border conflict, after its troops recaptured the disputed 120-square-mile Badme plain. Eritrea said, however, that there was a fresh Ethiopian assault along the 60-mile front and UN officials expressed concern that Ethiopia might try to press on to the coast.

The rulers of the two countries were long-time allies in the civil war against the Ethiopian dictator, Mengistu Haile Mariam, whom they ousted in 1991. When Eritrea gained independence two years later, the two states were hailed as leaders of an "African Renaissance". A bitter rivalry developed, however, when Eritrea established its own currency, the nakfa, in 1997 to replace the Ethiopian birr.

The deterioration in relations meant that Ethiopia was no longer able to trade through its former ports of Massawa and Assab, rendering it dependent on neighbouring Djibouti for access to the Red Sea. A full-scale war broke out last May when Eritrea seized Badme, an area on the border which was populated by ethnic Eritreans but under Ethiopian administration and was not demarcated.

Shuttle diplomacy by envoys from the United States and the UN failed to defuse the conflict, as Eritrea rejected a peace plan put forward by the Organisation of African Unity calling for its withdrawal. Ethiopia's crushing victory on Friday prompted Eritrea to reverse course and hurriedly accept the OAU plan in what diplomats took as a sign that the Eritrean Government feared that Ethiopia would seize more land.

## Albright talks tough as China relations sour

BY JAMES PRINGLE AND IAN BRODIE

WITH tensions mounting in Sino-American relations, Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, and her Chinese hosts will engage in tough talking today, setting the scene for next month's first official visit to Washington of Zhu Rongji, China's Prime Minister.

Fresh from her failure to push through a Kosovo agreement, Ms Albright acknowledged to a congressional committee, before leaving for two days in Beijing where she arrived last night, that "sharp differences" have emerged with China since the high water mark of President Clinton's visit eight months ago. Indeed, that deteriorating relationship was considered a prime reason why Mr Clinton has been unable to find a high-profile replacement Ambassador for Beijing when James Sasser leaves in May.

"Let me stress," said Ms Albright, in defence of Washington policy, "that in our deal-

ings with China, engagement is not endorsement". There is supposed to be a "strategic partnership" between the two nations, but this fuzzy phrase cannot disguise the triple blow that Washington delivered to China last week.

First there was the decision to deny the sale of a US-made satellite to China for a mobile phone network that, according to the Pentagon, would also have helped the Chinese to make their "intercontinental missiles" more accurate. The second was a Pentagon report on China's missile build-up opposite Taiwan, and the third, a stiff rebuke to China over its human rights record.

The State Department's annual report — which angered the Chinese — described crackdowns against organised political opposition and accused China of extra-judicial killings, torture and maltreatment of prisoners, forced confessions and arbitrary arrests.

To make matters worse, the crackdown on dissidents continued in the run-up to the Albright visit, prompting the Senate to call on the Administration, with a 99-0 vote on Thursday, to promote an anti-China resolution at this month's United Nations Human Rights Commission meeting in Geneva.

The resolution underlined that the Administration is under enormous domestic pressure not to pull its punches on China, despite concerns at the damage such criticism can do to other US interests such as trade and the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Non-government Chinese experts in Washington suspect that Mr Clinton and Ms Albright have left relations with Beijing on auto-pilot between visits, unaware that they were swerving off-course. There seems scant understanding that the end of the Cold War has made the Chinese more distrustful of America, especially those in power who remember that Henry Kissinger and his successors co-opted them to gang up on the Soviet Union. Using this argument, Chinese leaders can advance the notion that they are Washington's targets now.

Other issues loom large, including America's \$57 billion trade deficit with Beijing; US plans to develop a missile defence system to protect its Asian allies; and Congressional allegations that China may have obtained access to US technology to improve missiles and nuclear weapons.



Ms Albright is met by Lu Xunmin, a Chinese official



The Rev Henry Lyons, flanked by his lawyers, listens to the guilty verdicts in his Florida fraud trial

## Church leader fails to find a friend in Jesus

Ian Brodie in Washington on Baptist preacher found guilty of \$4 million fraud

THE leader of America's largest black religious organisation, who used to punctuate his sermons on sin with cries of "I'm doing some preaching now", walked from court without a word after being found guilty of swindles running to millions of dollars.

Henry Lyons, 57, faces up to eight years in prison but he refused to resign as president of National Baptist Convention USA. Rather, said a defence lawyer, he was going home to pray at his church in St Petersburg, Florida, where he is still pastor.

The guilty verdict by the all-white jury in Largo, Florida, ended a career of sex, flamboyance and deceit conducted under the cloak of God's name.

Lyons was convicted of racketeering by helping himself to more than \$4 million (£2.5 million) from corporations wanting to sell cemetery plots, life insurance and credit cards to his national membership, which he claimed to be 8.5 million strong. In fact, said the prosecution, it was closer to one million.

Bernice Edwards, 42, his organisation's public relations director and his suspected mistress, was cleared of racketeering.

It was the alleged affair that led to Lyons being caught. His enraged wife Deborah set fire to a luxurious waterfront home that he had bought with Ms Edwards.

The episode prompted a police investigation that uncovered an extravagant spending spree by Lyons, including a timeshare flat in Nevada, several luxury cars, expensive furs and a dia-

mond ring "the size of a dime". He was alleged to have lavished gifts on several mistresses.

Meanwhile, Lyons was duping the companies seeking his membership list by sending them names from computerised telephone directories.

This scam led to letters being sent such non-Baptists as a grand dragon of the Ku Klux Klan and a Catholic priest.

Lyons denied the charges throughout. Even as damning documentary evidence piled up, he and his lawyers constantly predicted that God would deliver him.

When the jury retired to consider its verdict, Lyons and Ms Edwards, who denied having an affair with him, joined hands with others outside the court to sing: "What a Friend We Have in Jesus".

A supporter, the Rev Charles Embery, led the group in prayer, asking God to help the jury come to the "right" verdict.

But after 12 hours of deliberation, the five women and one man said they found the evidence against Lyons compelling. And he still faces a federal trial on 54 counts of tax evasion, money laundering and extortion.

## Voyeurs of the world braced for revelation of the full Monica

BY IAN BRODIE

THE week of the full Monica Lewinsky treatment opened yesterday with assorted leaks, including an admission that she ignored her mother's advice to end her affair with President Clinton.

A well-orchestrated media blitz on both sides of the Atlantic will see Ms

Lewinsky telling her side of the story on television, as well as the release of her book, written with Andrew Morton, newspaper serialisations and more interviews. The first interview will be on Wednesday in America on ABC, when Ms Lewinsky will admit to Barbara Walters — and, the network hopes, an audience approaching Super-Bowl proportions — that her relationship with Mr Clinton was an emotional roller coaster and that she became depressed as it disintegrated.

She was extremely fragile by the time Kenneth Starr's prosecutors found her, Ms Walters told Newsweek, and they "pushed her over the top", making her feel desperate. Earlier, Ms Lewinsky's mother, Marcia

Lewis, had tried to persuade her to end the relationship. Ms Lewinsky admits that her stubbornness kept her from heeding the advice. Ms Lewinsky says she believes that, at the start of the affair, Mr Clinton was genuinely remorseful. Now, she says, the man she sees on television is all politician, sorry only that he got caught. Ms Lewinsky ex-

plains how prosecutors came to know about the infamous cigar escapade. She had described the incident to friends who were then called before the Grand Jury, so by the time she made her appearance the jurors knew all the salacious details. Ms Lewinsky found that, of all the things written about her, comments about her weight hurt her the most.

But she kept her sense of humour, repeating a joke about herself to Ms Walters that was considered too bawdy to broadcast.

Ms Lewinsky makes a public apology to the American people. Asked if she is still in love with the President, she says no, but there have been times when she feels "kind of warm" towards him.

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# Surrey's own Oskar Schindler

In a quiet corner of Guildford lives Henk Huffener, an embarrassed hero who saved dozens of Jews from the Nazis. Interview by Grace Bradberry

Henk Huffener's house, off the Guildford-Dorking road, is not merely in the Surrey stockbroker belt — it is at its very buckle. He has lived here for 40 years, and although various artistic types have beaten a path to his door (his friends include sculptors, photographers and writers), no one in the village has taken much notice.

"If anything, people have ignored me," he says, in his clipped Dutch accent. "I'm foreign. I don't belong to the stockbroker's club." And who would expect this 76-year-old man, with a wedge of grey hair sticking out beneath a bald pate, to have anything remarkable to say? But his neighbours have just received a jolt from the local papers. Huffener, it transpires, has a Past. "I don't want to go out any more. It's ridiculous," he says, waving a hand irritably.

You might surmise from this that he is one of those benign old men who turns out to be a former Nazi. In fact, he is that more remarkable character, a hidden hero. From 1941 to 1945, Huffener saved dozens, if not hundreds, of lives. He spied on German troop movements, helped to secure an escape route to Switzerland, evacuated a kibbutz and hid numerous families in safe houses, even finding a place for a girl with Down's syndrome. He was imprisoned in a slave labour camp, escaped, carried on.

Last month Huffener, a retired antiques dealer and qualified psychologist, travelled to the Israeli Embassy in London, accompanied by his wife Margaret and 50 friends and relatives. He became only the 13th British citizen to be honoured with Yad Vashem's "Righteous Among the Nations" award. He felt, he says, "virtual embarrassment" — the medal has joined his Dutch Resistance Cross, worn only twice, on a shelf in his cluttered basement.

His story begins in 1941, in an isolated house in a wood outside Biddhoe. This was the home of the Huffeners — father (an engineer), stepmother and seven children. They were a cultured, sociable family. "We were right in the sticks. That's important — no one overlooked us." When

Huffener's father began holding Resistance meetings at the house, there was no one to see. "My father was an incredibly kind, brave person. He never showed any anxiety at all."

The rest of his family seems to have inherited this temperament. Huffener's sister Ann looked after a safe house, about a mile from the family home, that was a crucial staging post on an escape route used to smuggle Allied pilots, diplomats and Jews, first to Switzerland, then to Spain. Huffener was involved in this work. His younger brother, Joep, made friends with a doctor who was transmitting messages to London, and Huffener provided the doctor with information about German troop movements. "I was 18 but I looked 14 and I'd chat to the soldiers. I'd be cheerful and gormless and say 'gosh, are you really going in that direction?'" The Germans eventually detected the doctor's aerial and stormed his house.

"They caught him red-handed; he was taken away and shot. That was the end of my spying," says Huffener. Despite its grim conclusion, this was to be only the first of Henk's Resistance exploits. A friend of his, Paul Koning — later a successful sculptor — introduced Huffener to Loekie Metz, a young Jewish woman who was staying at a German Zionist kibbutz near Loosdrecht. "In March 1942 a tip came that they had less than a month to fold up the kibbutz and get out. The Germans were very fond of the idea of 'way folk', as they were then called — young people going up country, hikers and bikers." So Huffener and others would go unnoticed as they cycled through the countryside, accompanied by one or two members of the kibbutz. It was an audacious and dangerous mission. On one occasion he was stopped by German soldiers while escorting an obviously Jewish-looking girl who spoke no Dutch. He kissed her, explained to the Germans that they must be off or they would be in trouble with their parents, and got away with it.

The naivety of some of those he saved now seems extraordinary. Huffener visited the same girl's parents in a bleak Jewish district of Amsterdam. The father produced a black velvet cushion displaying a medal. "He said 'That is an Iron Cross First Class. I am exempted from deportation'. But I said 'Don't believe them.' His plea went unheeded. In all, 110,000 Jews registered with the Jewish Council and obeyed the instruction to move to the ghettos. Those who went into hiding needed constant support. "In Anne Frank's story you never hear about the people who sustained them," Huffener points out. He became one of those people, moving about the country, never giving his full name, establishing a false address and carrying false papers.

In 1943 he was arrested while making a trip to Arnhem, where some of the kibbutz residents were hidden in a warehouse. He was charged with minor offences — not having an appropriate travel document and not having registered for work or study — and was questioned at Gestapo headquarters. He sat in the cells for two months. "I got very nervous because I thought somebody would twig. My last scene of crime, the warehouse, was only 300 yards away."

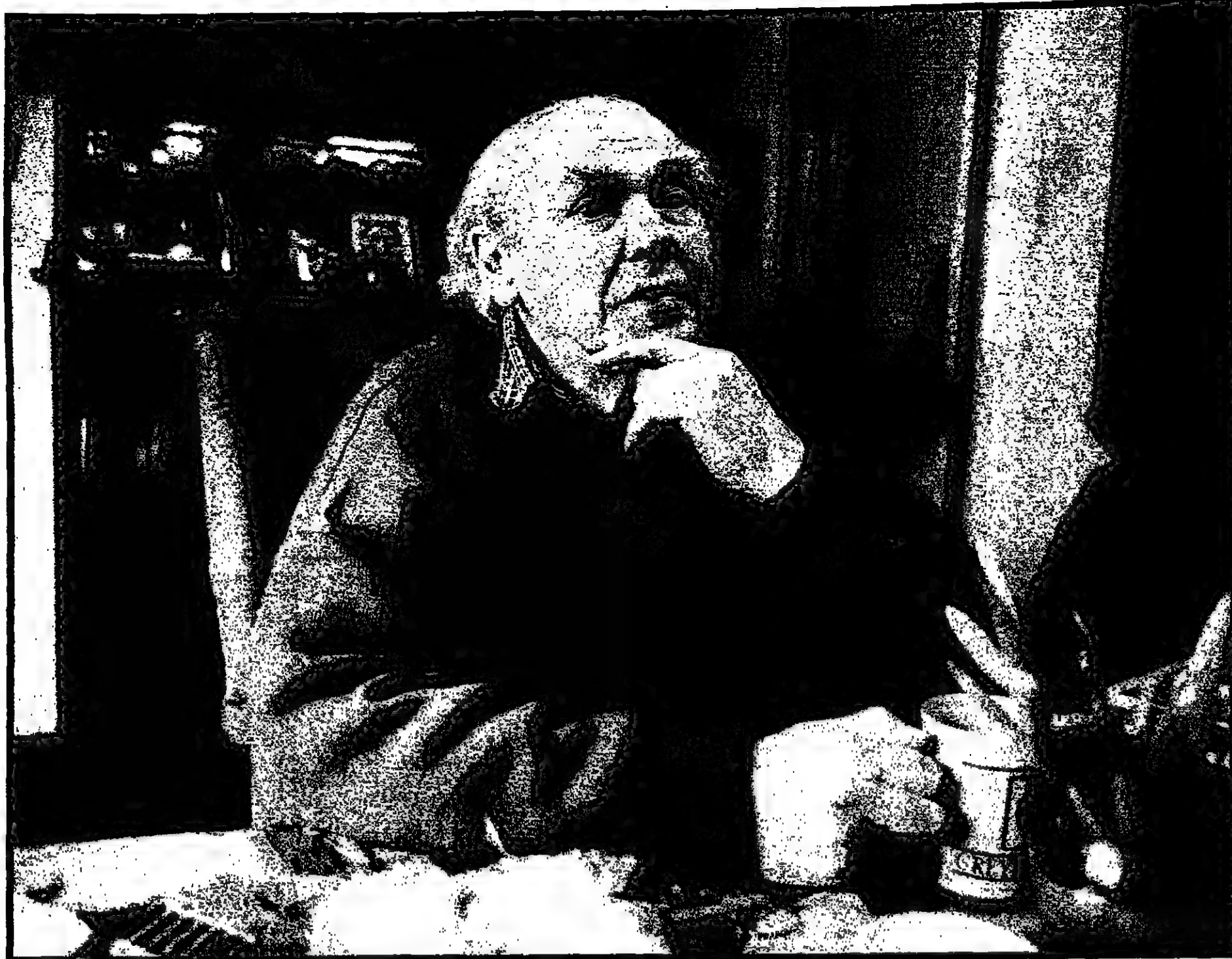
Finally he was sent to a slave labour camp in Germany, where he endured 16-hour shifts, inadequate food and poor sanitation. Through sheer resourcefulness, he talked his way first into a skilled job, then an office position, before wangling canteen lunches, wages and, ultimately, a leave permit.

He still has it — a piece of A5 paper, patterned like a driving licence, with the words "until further notice" audaciously typed by Huffener himself. There is a stamp from the local police station, where he endured a 20-minute wait before officials finally gave up trying to check his story.

He arrived back in Holland to discover that the SS had got hold of his name and had raided his father's home. He moved to Amsterdam and looked up a cousin whose husband was a land agent. Huffener was given access to empty properties and lived in one, hiding Jewish people in the others.

"I trotted around Amsterdam, very much a wanted person, and every time I'm stopped by the police, I say 'I've got this pass. That paper saved my life right through to the end of the war.'"

Huffener's most extraordinary achievement, perhaps, was to save an entire extended family. Before his imprisonment, while he was still in Arnhem, a friend approached him about an old couple who owned a soft-furnishings company. They had two daughters, one with Down's syndrome. Through his sister Ann, Huffener found a psychiatrist who would look after the girl in an institution. He took her across Holland first on the



Henk Huffener: "I have not suppressed the grim things but I don't want to relate them all that much. I could not have survived if I had not had a frivolous mind"

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Henk as a young man. Hendrik Huffener today.



The Huffener family's isolated home near Biddhoe.

train, then on the back of his bike. "We sailed up the drive, the girl screaming with joy because she'd never had a ride on the back of a bike before."

Next he had to look after the couple's other daughter, who had moved to Arnhem with her husband. "I was told 'They are in a flat where they are not meant to be. The son-in-law is sitting on the balcony with a bag and a newspaper, and the neighbours have seen. They have a four-month-old baby screaming at night. It's a matter of a week or two and they will drag him out.'"

He knew that he could hide the couple — but not with their baby.

Through his sister, he found a foster home for the child. "I went to this couple and said 'You can't stay here. I'm asking you to let the baby come with me'. It was a very fearful scene." Finally, they agreed.

In 1945 the family were reunited. "All three generations came back. Absolutely marvelous." The young couple moved to Israel and, although they sometimes visited England and knew Huffener's address, they never visited him. "I can't understand," he says, "I wasn't all that popular with them, having wrenched their child away. There was an aspect of embarrassment about it. What are you supposed to do? Say thanks? You don't do it for thanks."

So why did he do it? Why risk death to save strangers when so many others did not? "I had Jewish friends," he begins. "It's difficult to say. I'm probably a bit odd in that I love cultural diversity..."

He seems reluctant to acknowledge his courage. "I've not suppressed the grim things, but I don't want to relate them all that much. I couldn't have survived if I hadn't got a frivolous mind."

He drifts into another anecdote. He has just moved to Amsterdam and has not yet found the land agent cousin with the spare houses. Instead he is in a grim flat, on the edge of a ghetto, sheltering with an old Jewish couple who have decided that they want to die. "A great troop of Germans come over the wooden bridge and spread out over the street. They start shouting 'Everybody downstairs: with your bundles'. We're on the second floor. Beneath us is a West Indian man playing his saxophone. They go up the stairs, smashing the door. He comes out in his pyjamas. They shout at the guy 'Juden, Juden'. He says 'I'm not a Jew'. They say 'No, we know, you're a nigger'. He assures them that there is nobody upstairs and they turn and go downstairs."

So the old Jewish couple, I ask, did they decide they wanted to live after all? "No," says Huffener shortly. "They killed themselves that night with cyanide pills."

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OPEN ACCOUNT TYPES	PREVIOUS GROSS AER	GROSS AER (%)	GROSS (%)	NET
MILLENNIUM				
min £2,500 up to £10,000	5.75%	6.25%	6.25%	4.20%
£10,000 up to £20,000	6.00%	6.50%	6.50%	4.40%
£20,000 up to £40,000	6.25%	6.75%	6.75%	4.50%
£40,000 up to £200,000	6.50%	6.90%	6.90%	4.50%
PRE-CASH ISA FEEDER A/C - Rates held to 31st March 1999				
TD 31/3/99 - min £3,000				
FROM 1/4/99 - min £12,000	8.95%	8.95%	8.95%	6.56%
TESSA FAREWELL				
120 DAYS' NOTICE - min £3,000	8.95%	8.95%	8.95%	6.56%
TESSA FAREWELL				
120 DAYS' NOTICE - min £3,000	8.95%	8.95%	8.95%	6.56%
TESSA CHOICE				
90 DAYS' NOTICE - min £2,500	8.25%	8.25%	8.25%	5.75%
OLYMPUS SHARES				
min £1,000 up to £5,000	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	0.80%
£5,000 up to £10,000	3.15%	2.65%	2.65%	2.12%
£10,000 up to £20,000	6.65%	5.15%	5.15%	4.12%
£20,000 up to £40,000	6.15%	5.65%	5.65%	4.50%
£40,000 up to £200,000	6.65%	6.15%	6.15%	4.82%
REGENT/REGAL				
min £500 up to £2,500	1.30%	1.00%	1.00%	0.80%
£2,500 up to £5,000	2.00%	1.50%	1.50%	1.20%
£5,000 up to £10,000	2.80%	2.40%	2.40%	1.92%
£10,000 up to £20,000	3.85%	3.15%	3.15%	2.52%
£20,000 up to £100,000	3.80%	3.30%	3.30%	2.64%
BOUNTY SHARES				
min £500 up to £2,500	2.10%	1.60%	1.59%	1.27%
£2,500 up to £5,000	2.50%	2.00%	1.99%	1.59%
£5,000 up to £10,000	3.55%	2.85%	2.83%	2.26%
£10,000 up to £20,000	4.10%	3.60%	3.57%	2.86%
£20,000 up to £50,000	4.60%	4.10%	4.08%	3.25%
£50,000 up to £200,000	5.35%	4.85%	4.79%	3.83%
FOLLOW-UP TESSA				
up to £3,000 - LBS TESSA maturities only	6.50%	6.00%	6.00%	

ISSUES CLOSED FOR NEW ACCOUNTS				
ORDINARY	min	£500 up to £2,500	0.65%	0.55%
		£2,500 up to £5,000	0.65%	0.55%
		£5,000 up to £10,000	0.65%	0.55%
		£10,000 up to £20,000	0.65%	0.55%
		£20,000 up to £100,000	0.65%	0.55%
REGULAR	min	up to £150,000	0.55%	0.55%
SEVEN DAY	min	£500 up to £2,500	0.75%	0.75%
		£2,500 up to £5,000	0.80%	0.75%
		£5,000 up to £10,000	1.00%	0.80%
		£10,000 up to £20,000	1.50%	1.20%
60 DAY (formerly 2 year)	min	£500 up to £2,500	1.25%	1.00%
		£2,500 up to £5,000	2.15%	1.65%
		£5,000 up to £10,000	2.65%	2.15%
		£10,000 up to £20,000	3.75%	3.25%
		£20,000 up to £100,000	4.20%	3.70%
PREMIUM	min	£500 up to £2,500	1.40%	1.10%
		£2,500 up to £5,000	2.35%	1.75%
		£5,000 up to £10,000	2.85%	2.40%
		£10,000 up to £20,000	3.85%	3.42%
		£20,000 up to £50,000	4.15%	3.65%
		£50,000 up to £100,000	4.65%	3.91%
		£100,000 up to £200,000	4.95%	4.40%
HIGH YIELD	min	£500 up to £2,500	1.70%	1.50%
		£2,500 up to £10,000	2.00%	1.75%
MAGNUM	min	£500 up to £2,500	1.80%	1.50%
		£2,500 up to £5,000	2.10%	1.75%
		£5,000 up to £10,000	2.60%	1.95%
		£10,000 up to £20,000	2.80%	2.25%
		£20,000 up to £100,000	3.30%	2.85%
		£100,000 up to £200,000	3.50%	3.05%
TROPHY	min	£500 up to £2,500	2.15%	1.75%
		£2,500 up to £5,000	2.50%	1.95%
		£5,000 up to £10,000	2.75%	2.24%
		£10,000 up to £20,000	3.25%	2.84%
		£20,000 up to £50,000	4.05%	3.52%
		£50,000 up to £100,000	4.80%	4.25%
ONE YEAR SHARES	min	£1,000 up to £2,500	3.85%	3.35%
		£2,500 up to £5,000	5.85%	5.35%
		£5,000 up to £10,000	5.85%	5.35%
		£10,000 up to £20,000	6.00%	5.50%
		£20,000 up to £100,000	6.20%	5.70%
		£100,000 up to £200,000	6.20%	5.70%
TESSA ELITE		60 DAYS' NOTICE	5.50%	5.00%
MATURED TESSA		Balance under £1,000	1.25%	1.00%
		Select 60 days	5.50%	5.00%
		Eligible 60 days	5.50%	5.00%
		Choice 30 days	5.25%	5.75%
BOUNTY DEPOSITS	min	£500 up to £2,500	2.10%	1.60%
		£2,500 up to £5,000	2.80%	2.00%
		£5,000 up to £10,000	3.35%	2.55%
		£10,000 up to £20,000	4.10%	3.80%
		£20,000 up to £50,000	4.80%	4.10%
		£50,000 up to £200,000	5.35%	4.85%

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# LONDON FASHION WEEK



Every five years or so, London Fashion Week is supposedly about to meet its Maker. But despite all the hand-wringing, the event is still very much alive. Photographs by **Simon Walker**

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THE TIMES

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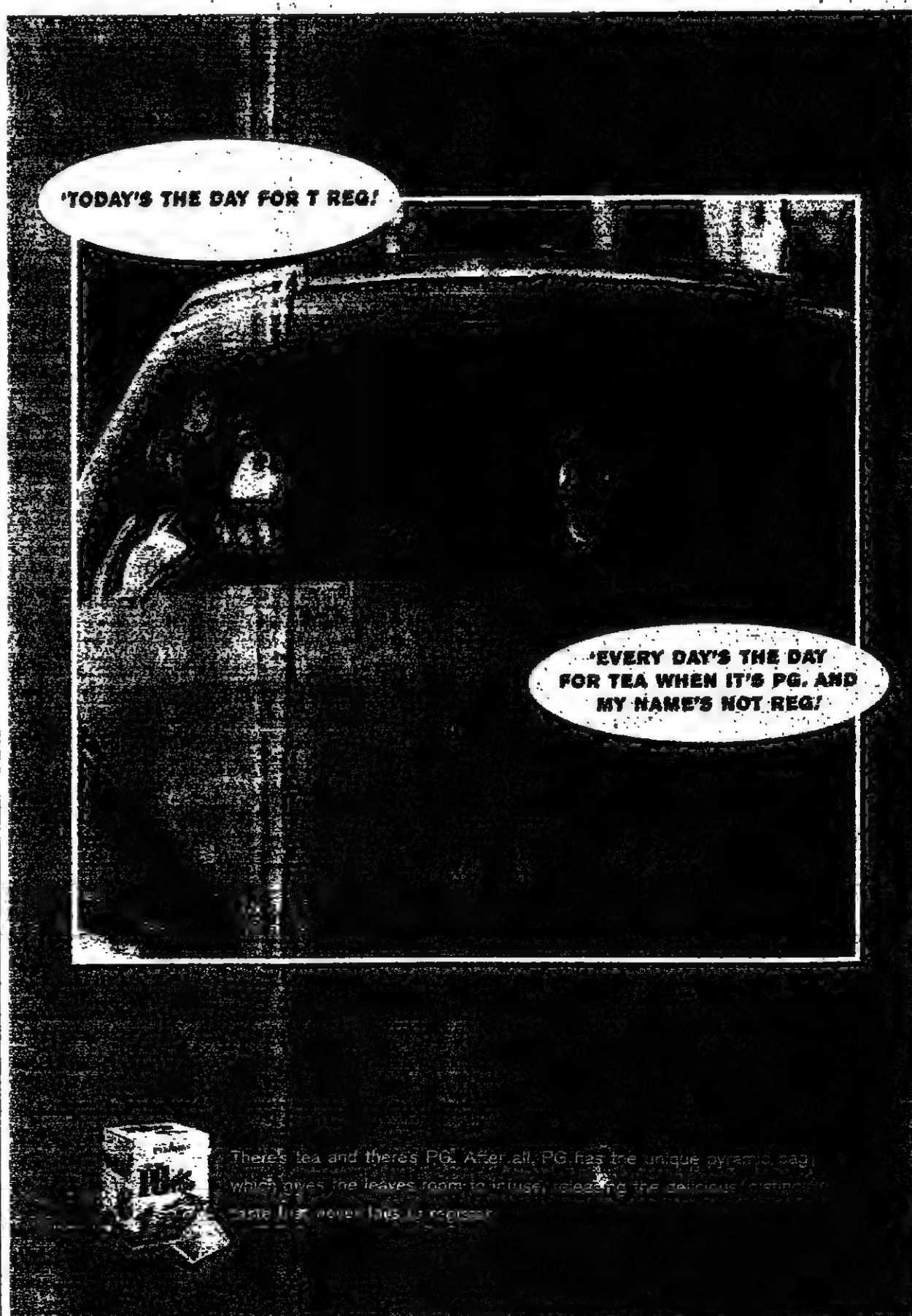
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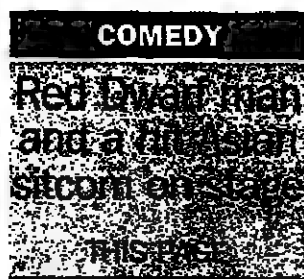
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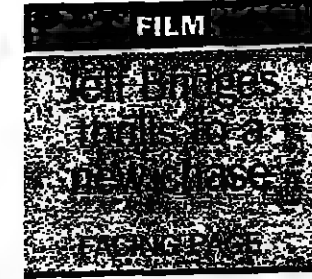




COMEDY

Red Dwarf: man and a five-star sitcom on stage

# THE TIMES ARTS



FILM



Good

CINEMA

Believe it or not

## Imbecile firmly in charge

In recent years the tiny Gate has accomplished so much — from rediscovering Spanish plays of the Golden Age to introducing us to the German dramatist Marie-Luise Fleisser to giving spare, simple productions of Kenneth McLeish's stunningly bold translations of Euripides — that it has every reason to make a fuss of itself.

It may, if it likes, celebrate its 20th birthday with a season called Idiots, "devoted to the sensibly challenged". It may even declare in its publicity blurb that "imbeciles are very firmly in charge at the Gate". We know it is the theatre's jolly distinguishing way of preparing us for Cervantes's *Don Quixote* and the satirical East European plays that will follow.



THEATRE

There are, of course, many hilarious incidents in the original novel, and a few of these are included in Maria Mombland Ribas's production. Patrick Kealey's monotonously grave and earnest Quixote makes a barber's basin for the magic helmet of Mambino and snatches it from its stupefied owner. He confuses lins with castles, rips apart puppets who have offended his sense of chivalry, rescues a shepherd's boy from a deserved beating. Whether he tilts at windmills I cannot be sure, for the moment passed in a twinkling during which latecomers were distracting me. But little else is particularly ludicrous and nothing else is funny, so it hardly matters.

Nor is pace or clarity helped by the introduction of a narrator-guru in the form of Cide Hamete Benengali, whom Cervantes pretended was his story's inventor, and two female listener-commentators, both in modern togs and one with a half-penetrable accent. He gives them plonkingly obvious lectures about imagination, reality, reason and the other subjects the adapter wishes us to ponder — "nothing is what it seems, have you forgotten that already, my little budget-gars?" — while they do little but take up space and time. Mehmet Ergen's earthy good-natured Sancho Panza emerges with some credit from the deconstructionist banalities on offer, but otherwise — imbecility is the *mot juste*.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE



Mehmet Ergen and Patrick Kealey in the Gate's incoherent adaptation of the classic Cervantes tale of Don Quixote

## Fresh and juicy

Puccini's early masterpiece is now more than 100 years old but remains as miraculously fresh as its subject-matter. Young love, youthful ideals and shattered dreams motivate the plot and not many productions capture this spirit as well as Göran Järvelid's 15-year-old staging for Welsh National Opera.



OPERA

As revived here by Caroline Chaney, the production mixes humour and pathos in the same way as Puccini's score. Updating the action by a few decades to the time of the opera's composition, it remains realistic and traditional — but never conventional. Above all, it is a staging that "listens" to the music, recognising that Puccini never sentimentalises the hard existence of these Bohemians.

pals are young; this is not the strongest cast WNO has ever fielded in *La Bohème*, but they are an evenly-matched group of singing actors. It is less help that on the opening night they were often swamped by the orchestra under Graham Jackson. After a slightly scrappy start, Jackson settled down to conduct a performance full of theatrical life, but overdid the juice in what is already a very juicy score. Alwyn Mellor gives perhaps the most fully rounded performance, singing with glowing tone and charting Mimì's decline poignantly. The Bohemians make a lively

quartet, but Gwyn Hughes Jones's Rodolfo stands out for his sweetly lyrical tone. Simon Thorpe's Marcello is more deeply characterised, an overgrown naughty boy at the start who is perhaps most affected by events, and he boasts a warm baritone. Dean Robinson's Colline and Matthew Hargreaves's Schaunard are not overshadowed, however, and the latter sings the best Italian. Gail Pearson's perky Musetta is dynamite in a small package, and her slender soprano rides the ensembles brightly.

JOHN ALLISON

## Mixed in with Asian spice

COMEDY: *Goodness Gracious Me* is attracting a mainstream audience to the theatre. Clive Davis reports

There had been mutterings that the level of inspiration was starting to wobble by the end of the second television series of *Goodness Gracious Me*. So it is refreshing to report that the stage version, which is on tour until the middle of next month, scores one greatest hit after another.

In a glum week for news on the race front, it was also encouraging to see not just a full house but a decidedly mixed crowd. When GGM star Sanjeev Bhaskar performed an accomplished solo show at the South Bank just after Christmas, he played to an audience that was 99 per cent Asian. Here at the Reading Hexagon was proof, if it were needed, that he and his colleagues are mainstream talents too.

Bhaskar and Meera Syal have attracted most of the critical attention so far, partly for the very good reason that they contribute their own material. But this evening was very much a collective success. Kulvinder Ghir's clowning is put to superb use, particularly in a parody of an all-action, all-dancing movie hero. Nina Wadia makes a convincing transition from miniskirted Asian "it-girl" to the indomitable Mrs Bedi, a matriarch who is never caught without an aubergine in her handbag. The whole enterprise fizzles with the self-confidence of a Westernised generation that has come of age.

British paternalism receives a ritual poke in the eye in Toby Longworth's cameo performance as a nostalgic colonial agent and a dim-witted backpacker. But Asian insularity

comes in for much more of a biding. Gurus are treated with jovial disrespect, and we are introduced to a new chain of restaurants, Planet Bollywood, that seats its customers according to skin tone.

Some of the skits looked underpowered on a stage as large as the Hexagon's. Anil Gupta's direction would benefit from a little tightening. But we do have the opportunity to relive the English restaurant sketch, an instant classic which depicts a table full of Bombay rowdies bullying a timid Caucasian waiter. "What's the blandest dish on your menu?"

Craig Charles's role in another offbeat BBC2 series, *Red Dwarf*, forms one of the selling points for his national tour. Not that there were many touches of the surreal in his performance at Oxford Brookes University — apart from the bizarre sight of him lowering his trousers to display a chic set of stockings and suspenders. His well-publicised spell in prison supplies the meatiest sequence in his routine. For all the cheeky Scouse swagger he brings to his tales from a darkened cell, there is no mistaking the fear and loathing underneath.

The rest, though, tends to fall into a predictable run through off-colour, toilet and sex jokes. Even an account of a trip to Bill Gates's empire turns into an excuse to linger in the aeroplane's WC. A pity. At his best, when he allows his stream-of-consciousness indignation to bubble over into a poem, Charles conveys a real sense of individuality.

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# Good guys don't win prizes

**CINEMA:** Jeff Bridges may be Hollywood's most underrated star but it has never bothered him, as Lesley O'Toole discovered

Fear and paranoia are themes which permeate Jeff Bridges' films, and his new one — *Arlington Road*, opening in Britain this month — is no exception. A psychological thriller about neighbours who are not all they seem, it is precisely the kind of movie Bridges likes to see. "I love it when the filmmaker is ahead of the viewer and there are so many twists that you don't know how something will turn out."

That, more than the role, proved the attraction here. That and his co-star, Tim Robbins, who, as the first star name attached to the project, had his pick of two equally interesting male lead roles. Bridges did not mind that whatever Robbins left was his own role. "Sometimes it's the other way round," he adds.

Bridges was also attracted by the film's "Hitchcockian feel" rather than its political subject-matter (American-based terrorism and its white militia perpetrators). "For me, the film is a fantasy on that level, though in Britain things must be very different. You have grown up with terrorism but even after something like the Oklahoma bombing, Americans still don't give the topic much credence. We prefer to live in a state of denial because we really don't want to think about these things."

Yet Bridges knows only too well that his on-screen paranoia in *Arlington Road* is both plausible and rooted in fact. On the film's set in Houston, Texas, last year, Bridges met many extras who had family and friends affiliated with white militia groups and he believes that a societal malaise persists in the country in spite of its buoyant economy. "I don't know that the state of the economy is entirely satisfying to everyone. Jobs are so low-paying that families still can't afford roofs over their head or the health cover they need."

Bridges, of course, has the luxury of being able to pick and choose his work. Clearly, his motivation is neither financial nor careerist. At 50, he is not only more handsome and versatile than Harrison Ford but seven years younger. Yet he has eschewed the conventional leading-man roles which could have placed him in the \$20-million-per-movie pantheon. Asked which specific film he has passed up, he responds with a slightly bemused: "I'm really not sure which films people mean when they say that, but I don't think I ever went down that movie star path. I always enjoy taking a 90-degree turn from the last thing I did."

The American film critic Pauline Kael once wrote that

Bridges "may be the most natural and least self-conscious screen actor that ever lived". He has his own thoughts on the reasons he is able to imbue every character with credibility. "Audiences bring information into the theatre about what they last saw an actor in. Because I've done so many different roles, it's easier for me to project a character on to the actor so when people see me on screen, they think, 'Maybe he's the bad guy, maybe not.'"

Though he enjoyed making *Arlington Road*, Bridges' experience was tinged with sadness when his father Lloyd Bridges died during the shoot. For years, Bridges doubted his merit as an actor, well aware of having a "foot in the door" because his father was who he was. "I thought he made his film debut at the age of nine months — 'I didn't do a very good job, they couldn't get me to cry' — it was not until he had made perhaps ten movies as an adult that he decided acting was what he wanted to focus on."

His inauspicious film debut opposite Jane Greer was followed by a few parts on his father's television series, *Sea Hunt*. "He'd always say, 'Do you want to do this part? You'll be gone from school for a couple of weeks. And when you're eight years old, it's kind of fun.'"

A little further on, he questioned whether he was acting simply because his father did, but eventually realised that "they wouldn't hire me if I was no good. After that, the feeling started to go away."

Two Academy Award nominations by the age of 25 helped. At 22, he was nominated as Best Supporting Actor for his endearing guy-next-door in Peter Bogdanovich's *The Last Picture Show* and three years later for *Thunderbolt and Lightfoot*. In the 1980s, Bridges enjoyed a spectacular run, winning Best Actor for his alien masquerading as human in *Starman*. He hit box-office success again the same year in *Against All Odds*, though the success of that film paled next to that of *Jagged Edge*.

But his early popularity with Academy members did not convert into the recognition he should have earned for a clutch of 1990s films — *The Fisher King*, *Fearless* and the low-budget *American Heart*, which he also produced. Janet Maslin, *The New York Times* film critic, calls him "the most underappreciated great actor of his generation", though she was not thinking of *The Mirror Has Two Faces*, starring and directed by Barbra Streisand and



Laid back: Jeff Bridges is unfazed by his lack of awards — "I'm constantly surprised that I am still surprised in this business"

featuring Bridges as her bemused suitor.

Unsurprisingly, given his huge résumé, Bridges cannot name a favourite film. "I have a bit of fondness for all of them. Sometimes I feel the end result, the movie, is almost a by-product of the real process, which is just being alive, finding out about yourself and your character and having relationships with the people you're working with."

Bridges documents each filming experience by photographing it extensively. Polymath brought "thousands" of his photos taken on the set of *Arlington Road* and printed a limited edition of 5,000 promotional books, with handwritten captions by Bridges. If anyone mounts an awards cam-

paign for the film, the book will make an excellent gift for the Golden Globe voters. (Oscar voters are not allowed to receive such promotional items.)

In fact, Bridges is so long overdue some awards that he probably fancied his chances when those Academy favourites, the Coen brothers, wrote a part for him in *The Big Lebowski*, their follow-up to *Fargo*. The film, though, generated none of the generation-transcending buzz of its predecessor. Was he surprised?

"I was because it made me laugh and, for me, John Turturro's performance is unbelievable. But then I'm constantly surprised that I'm still surprised in this business. I admire the Coen brothers so much because they're so not

about the awards and the hoopla. They're totally low-key." So too is the very affable Bridges, who lives a singularly normal-sounding life in an idyllic beach town north of Los Angeles with his wife and three teenage daughters.

His life outside work consists mostly of "music and ceramics". Not only is he not worried about his own neighbours he makes music with them. He also plays guitar and piano for the ensemble's "jazzy stuff with some rock and some pop". When feeling in need of creative stimulus, he tackles a 12-week course prescribed by the book *The Artist's Way*. "Each day, the first thing you

do is write three pages of stream of consciousness. Mine normally starts off with something like 'I really, really, really don't feel like doing this'. You empty all this stuff out and then, all of a sudden, other things just come out."

Bridges emptied another load of "stuff" on his daughters before signing on for *The Big Lebowski*. "I was so conflicted because I was thinking, 'I'm going to play this dope-smoking guy. What about my girls? What kind of role model is that?'" He sat them down and gave them a long speech. "I was sweating. Finally, I ran out of words and they just looked at me and said, 'Dad, it's a movie.'"

● *Arlington Road* is released in Britain on March 19

## Too tight for comfort

Beethoven is really rather early music for Nikolai Demidenko. The Russian pianist, who has collected awards for his recordings of Medner, Tchaikovsky and Scriabin, was likely to have very much his own way with Beethoven. And so it was when his *Pathétique* and *Tempest* Sonatas exploded on the Barbican Hall on Tuesday.

At the start of the *Pathétique*, the energy which is coiled into those severe opening chords, ready to break out in the impulsive rising figures which follow, seemed in Demidenko's hands compacted. Where Beethoven's strength and imagination seems constantly to be expanding, breaking its own bounds, Demidenko seemed to be compressing itself, rigorously scaling down. This generated its own idiosyncratic excitement. The outer movements fairly cracked with nervous tension,

setting into relief a central slow movement so thoughtfully phrased that its song was heard breathing anew. And there was to be no relaxation of tension. Demidenko's tall frame remained crouched over the keyboard, taut with anticipation.

For Beethoven's *Tempest* Sonata, he found a compellingly hushed and exploratory opening. As the fingers touched each rising note into being, it seemed as if anything could happen. And each time those quiet, self-communing phrases returned out of the hurly-burly, they grew more isolated, until finally they were conjured into song, as if from another, far distant frequency.

There was a palpable sense of physical relief as Demidenko turned to Liszt and was able to spread himself once more, stretching every sinew of his body and that of the piano itself.

The young Liszt certainly intended to test both performer and instrument in the *Etudes d'exécution transcendantale* d'après Paganini. Demidenko played two of them: *La chasse*, dapper and devilish in its rhythmic control, and *La Campanella*, in which he seemed to have not quite enough freedom to tease out the whimsy. There was not much of a smile on his face, either, in the two operatic transcriptions which framed the *Etudes* and his powerfully shaped *Ballade No 2* in B minor. The *Waltz* and *Capriccio* on two themes from "Lucia et Parisina" was nicely deadpan in its virtuosity. But Liszt's *paraphrase de concert* on *Rigoletto* was, after all, quite the most outrageously successful PR package for Verdi's opera before Jonathan Miller's juke-box and Demidenko's frenzied performance made it just a little less fun.

HILARY FINCH

## This week in THE TIMES



### POP

Alanis Morissette flags her July UK tour with a surprise date at Shepherd's Bush GIG: Tonight  
REVIEW: Wednesday



### MUSIC

Master violinist Gidon Kremer plays Piazzolla's steamy tangos at the QEH  
CONCERT: Tomorrow  
REVIEW: Thursday



### THEATRE

At the Queens Rufus Sewell plays the Thane in Shakespeare's Scottish Play  
OPENS: Wednesday  
REVIEW: Friday



### FILM

Talk show queen-turned-film star Oprah Winfrey feels haunted in *Beloved*  
RELEASED: Friday  
REVIEW: Thursday

PLUS: The Royal Ballet's *Dance Bites* opens in Bath and Darlington tonight

### OPERA & BALLET

**COLISEUM** 0171 522 5335 (4PM)  
ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA  
Tonight 7.30-11.15  
**DAVID LLOYD** 0171 522 5335  
Academy Concert  
Tonight 7.30-11.15

### THEATRES

**ADRIAN**  
0171 522 5335 (4PM)  
Tonight 7.30-11.15  
**CHICAGO**  
The Musical  
Tonight 7.30-11.15  
**STILL THE HOTTEST SHOW**  
In Town  
Tonight 7.30-11.15  
**WHISTLE DOWN THE WIND**  
Tonight 7.30-11.15

**ALMA AT THE ALBANY**  
0171 522 5335 (4PM)  
Tonight 7.30-11.15  
**THE CAVALMAN**  
Tonight 7.30-11.15  
**THE COMPLETE HISTORY OF AMERICA**  
Tonight 7.30-11.15

### THEATRES

**APOLLO VICTORIA** 0171 491 474  
Tonight 7.30-11.15  
**STARLIGHT EXPRESS**  
Tonight 7.30-11.15

**CAMBRIDGE** 0171 522 5335  
Tonight 7.30-11.15  
**THE RETURN OF DON JUAN**  
Tonight 7.30-11.15

**CONCERT** 0171 522 5335  
Tonight 7.30-11.15  
**THE REDUCED SHAKESPEARE COMPANY**  
Tonight 7.30-11.15

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# Blair books his ticket to euroland

A danger to the Tories as the odds shorten on entry

Nothing is inevitable in politics. But there are probabilities — and British entry into the euro is now probable. Tony Blair has made entry a strategic aim of his Government. For all the careful wording of his Commons statement, he cast aside previous ambiguities that allowed some sceptic commentators to delude themselves that he was really on their side. The Government will now actively seek to achieve entry. Of course, like any shrewd politician, Mr Blair left himself a jet-out clause by stressing the economic tests.

However, failure to join in the next Parliament would be a huge setback for his strategy of closer involvement in the European Union, and would force a reassessment of his whole foreign policy. This is leaving aside the possibility of defeat in a referendum, which could be fatal to his premiership, but he would not call one unless he was sure of winning.

The latest MORI poll for *The Times* indicates that opinion has become less hostile to entry. The precise figures showing an even balance for and against might differ with a slightly altered question, but the trend is clear and is backed by other recent polls. More significant is that half the public is persuadable either way, depending on what it thinks would be best for the economy. So much for the myth of a firmly sceptic electorate.

A sizeable minority of the public, now about a quarter, is strongly opposed to British participation. That is, in effect, the position of the Tory leadership and is William Hague's instinct (a nation that has decided its own destiny for 1,000 years), rather than just ruling out entry for the next Parliament. However, such an absolute position may also be limiting the Tory potential for recovery. A recent MORI poll commissioned by John Stevens and Brendan Donnelly, the former Tory MEPs and founders of the pro-European Conservative Party, showed that a pro group led by Michael Heseltine and Kenneth Clarke might not only attract 13 per cent support (against 19 per cent for Mr Hague's party) but it could also win back Tory defectors from Labour and the Liberal Democrats.

The Stevens-Donnelly group may be no more than spoilers in this June's European elections, but their activity shows that Mr Hague cannot assume that a majority will rally to a "save the pound" call. That may be true of a hard core, but any referendum will be decided by the much larger number whose vote will be swayed by their economic interests.

The Government's case is that Britain would be left behind outside the euro with people worse off and investment at risk. Joining will be presented as a logical step rather than a big leap. That means showing that the euro is successful and that Britain would fit into euroland.

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Peter Riddell

Serious tensions do exist, as shown by the squabbling between finance ministers and the European Central Bank, and by the failure at Friday's summit to make progress over reform of the budget and farm policies. Mr Blair has to be able to show that Europe is reforming itself and that its labour, capital and product markets are becoming more competitive.

However, arguments over the proposed levy on art sales and the threat to the Eurobond market from a withholding tax make the EU appear less attractive, and Mr Blair also has to show that further moves towards closer integration and qualified majority voting are not against British interests.

The New Europe group launched today by David Owen, with mainstream-centrist backing, is fighting on this ground with its anti-monetary union but pro-European line, a socially acceptable scepticism that is not right-wing. But how does it avoid the embrace of the ultras?

Mr Clarke and Mr Heseltine are now happy to work in an all-party campaign with Mr Blair. Will Lord Owen's group be content to sit with Bill Cash and his allies?

The Owen approach is more fundamentally flawed. Despite legitimate doubts over monetary union, the group still believes that Britain can pick and choose which bits of the EU it wants to join with no adverse consequences. But Britain cannot really have a central role in the EU if it is outside monetary union for long. Other countries, and many in the City and big business accept, albeit reluctantly, that Britain cannot join for three or four years. But any longer and Britain will suffer a loss of business and investment.

Moreover, the policies adopted by the euro II will have a direct impact on Britain, and we will have no influence on them outside the euro. Many Tories are content to accept such a detached position, and want Britain to renegotiate its relationship with the EU anyway. The Owen group wants Britain to be part of Europe, yet, as Mr Blair has not come to recognise, that is not consistent with being outside a successful single currency.

The debate will turn on these questions of economic advantage. The Tories are in danger of being seen not just as split, as they may be in the Euro elections, but also as detached from most of mainstream business. As Mr Blair remarked last Tuesday, there could even be "the delicious irony of going into the next general election with the only fears on the financial markets being the prospect of a Tory election victory."

There is still a big task of persuasion, and winning a referendum will not be easy, especially if the Tories recover strongly at the next election. But by at least taking a lead, Mr Blair has started to shift the odds in favour of entry.



## We haven't a prayer

From the millennium prayer to government by cliché and the dumbing of ITV, we are in the grip of dunces

My grandson Wilfrid, who is four years old, was getting annoyed with his mother; in the angry voice little boys use, he said: "I want you out of my language." That was how I felt when I read the text of the millennium "prayer": it has so annoyed the Archbishops of Canterbury and Westminster that they are thinking of boycotting the Dome on millennium night. They will, in any case, be much better off with their own congregations, in their own cathedrals, praying to their God. The Dome has no faith, though it smells faintly of neo-paganism.

The prayer, as quoted in the *Daily Mail*, reads: "Let there be respect for the Earth, peace for its people, love in our lives, delight in the good, forgiveness for past wrongs, and from now on a new start."

No mention of God; no mention of Christ. The churches are said to be spending £6 million sending a copy of this string of slogans, together with a free candle, to 18 million homes in Britain. Apart from the Dome itself, there can hardly be a greater waste of money. There are quite enough people in Britain already who speak in clichés — almost all of the new Labour Party for a start — without spending £6 million on dumbing down our language still further.

My first reaction to the millennium prayer was to compare it with genuine prayers, with the Lord's Prayer, psalms, with the prayers of great religions. It does, indeed, borrow some religious language. "Let there be" comes from the first chapter of the Book of Genesis. "And God said, 'let there be light'; and there was light." "Respect" is a word used in the Mafia to describe the deference appropriate to the leader of a criminal organisation. "Respect for the Earth" is a green slogan.

"Peace for its people" is quite close to "peace in our time", which Neville Chamberlain, on his return from Munich, borrowed from the Book of Common Prayer. "People" is, of course, a new Labour word, as in "People's Princess". "Love in our lives" occupies an intermediate position between a religious statement and the lyric of an old-fashioned popular song; it could well be the last line of one of those mawkish modern hymns written for children.

"Delight in the good" is a mysterious, even ambiguous, phrase. Are we being advised to delight in good things, as a wine expert might savour a glass of

Château-Lafite, or a silver connoisseur might admire a Paul Ströer saltcellar? Or are we simply supposed to delight in doing good, which often involves labour and self-sacrifice? Isaac Watts thought that all creatures delighted in the natural appetites God had given them. "Let dogs delight to bark and bite. For God hath made them so; Let bears and lions growl and fight. For 'tis their nature too."

"Forgiveness for past wrongs" mixes one of the petitions of the Lord's Prayer with the modern habit of apologising for historic evils, such as the slave trade or the potato famine. My own Irish ancestors were on the wrong side of the potato famine, so I regularly apologise to them on behalf of my English ancestors. Finally, one comes to "and from now on a new start", which sounds like a new Labour slogan for the next general election.

The whole thing is not a prayer at all. As the *Daily Mail* reports: "Supporters point out that it was carefully composed so that it could be used by Christians, those of other faiths and those of no faith at all." It is a political statement, designed to persuade people of differing views that they are in agreement when they are not. I do not know whether it is more offensive for its stylistic clumsiness, for the mere repetition of fragments of real prayers, or for the mind-numbing combination of vagueness with intellectual dishonesty.

The Dome has become the grand national symbol of the process of dumbing-down. It is splendid news that the Jubilee Line may not be finished, so the best way to get there on the night may be to abandon one's car in Greenwich and jog through a disused container port. That sounds an ideal way to celebrate the start of the new millennium.

In Inspector Clouseau's accent,

"dome", "dumb", "damp", and "dumb" all sound very much the same. The Prime Minister has told the Queen she must spend millennium night in a dumb dome, or perhaps in a damp dump. That will make her the new People's Queen, and help him to retain the new People's Prime Minister.

Another, and more than symbolic, dumbing-down has been the wanton destruction of independent television. I hope it will be discussed at the conference on dumbing-down which *The Times Literary Supplement* is mounting next Friday. For 30 years, ITV produced some of the best television in Britain, constantly challenging and often surpassing the BBC. It has already been reduced to a shadow of what it once was. One can read the ITV programme on most nights without seeing anything that raises a flicker of interest or pleasure. Even the great Melvyn Bragg only comes on at a late hour, and has been encouraged to follow the dreary agenda of political correctness.

I am not criticising ITV for excessive emphasis on popular entertainment — would that I could — but for the oceanic boredom of its schedules. From 8pm to 9pm this evening, a peak viewing hour, ITV will be showing 30 minutes of surveillance footage, taken by HM Customs, followed by a half hour of home improvements on the Wirral. Of course, there is always *Coronation Street*: "Maxine struggles to cope at the salon in the absence of Audrey, while Gary and Judy decide on godparents for the twins." There is gritty socialism for you. However, there has always been the compensation of *News at Ten*, topical, well-presented, well-edited, the most professional of the network news services. For more than 40 years that has remained an excellent news programme; in its first years it forced the BBC to modernise

news broadcasting; in the early 1960s, I remember ITN introducing the first televised Budget broadcast and the first live computer forecasts on the general election night programme. Alastair Burnet presented both of them: I had the good luck to be one of the talking heads. Now *News at Ten* is to go, despite the well-deserved popularity, and the seriousness, of Trevor McDonald. From dawn to dewy eve, ITV will be dullness, dullness, dullness.

The commercial companies are, in their own commercial terms, destroying what used to be the strongest of network brands. Of course, as the ITV network vanishes down the plughole, it will still be possible to watch the *Jerry Springer Show*. Jerry Springer has a sinister rather than merely mindless vulgarity. *News at Ten* is dead, but Jerry Springer lives.

As with the dumb Dome, complete with its God-free spirit zone, Tony Blair's Government must share the blame for the destruction of the ITV tradition. Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, is also responsible for broadcasting. He appointed Gerry Robinson, the chairman of Granada, as the chairman of the Arts Council. Mr Robinson dumbledown Granada, and has done his best to dumb down the Arts Council as well. Mr Smith continues to coo sincerity and soundbites on television as the apostle of support for the arts.

The Prime Minister has done more than anyone in British public life to substitute propaganda images for political debate. From the start of his leadership, he spoke in soundbites for the soundbites came. He uses political language to sentimentalise and dissolve the real issues of policy, not to define them. It is rather the same as a conjurer using patter to distract his audience from what he is actually doing. No doubt this is a worldwide fashion. President Clinton himself abuses language as well as women.

Alexander Pope described the triumph of unreason in the *Dunciad*: "Lo! Thy dread empire, Chaos, is restored; Light dies before thy uncreating word." Our national dialogue has been denatured; in religion, in politics, in social debate there has been a substitution of spin and image for language, truth and logic. I am extending Wilfrid's motto: "I want the dunces out of my language."

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William Rees-Mogg



## Tally low

LEAKY roofs at the National Trust, courtesy of the Prince of Wales's friends: the wrangle over the charity's ban on stagholing is heading for the courts again, and its coffers are emptying sharply.

The trust, which has already spent more than £200,000 on legal fees, is being pursued with renewed vigour by the Devon and Somerset Stagholing, whose supporters include Hugh Van Cutsen, a pal of Prince Charles. Money for the case has to be diverted from conservation work.

My tip for a better use of funds: Hardwick Hall, the Duke of Devonshire's former ancestral seat — memorably described by Lord Torrington as "one of the proudest piles I ever beheld" — which is crumbling in dust in trust hands. Says a big welly: "They should put down their bricks and get back to drystone walls."

CRISPIN MILLS. Sir John Mills's pop-singing grandson, on his route into rock star debauchery: "I grew up with pictures of my Mum [Hayley Mills, below, with clan] looking very young, standing with John Wayne or Walt Disney. That did something to my head."



AN archbishop has fallen out with his estate agent, and is worried about a lost £8 million. Alwyn Rice Jones, the Archbishop of Wales, had his unhappy brush with Mawson after logging Church of Wales land for £27 million; shortly afterwards, the canny buyer sold it on for £35 million. Over to Knight Frank, the land valuers, who tell me cautiously: "We understand the Church is still considering its position."

IS Rosie Boycott the new Parry? My close friend, the Editor-in-Chief of *Express Newspapers*, has told friends she wants to be a chat show host. Her hoped-for outlet, Channel 5, is about as popular as her current home.

LAWYERS have been ruminating over the appointment of Mr Justice Lightman to hear the most recent BCCI case. In his more humble days as a QC, Lightman defended Abbas Gokal, one of the BCCI baddies. After Lord Hoffmann's Amnesty troubles, this is sensitive stuff, but Cherie Booth, one of the defending lawyers, was happy: she spoke to Lightman about his record and was convinced of his impartiality.



AN illegitimate Dome has been born. The company building the real thing is erecting a 50-metre-high practice tent for the circus types who will perform at Greenwich.

NICK HORNBY turned to laddish novel-writing after his inkly ambitions were thwarted. Hornby, a recent £2 million transfer to Penguin, was a listless graduate when he applied to the journalism course at City University. Cruelly rebuffed, he turned his hand to fiction. "We look for commitment, aptitude and personality," says Linda Christmas, City's current taskmistress. "Anyway, journalism is not about writing."

ROYAL cinematic preferences will be clear when the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh visit Angels, the world's largest theatrical costumes, on Thursday. While the Queen will peruse outfits from Elizabeth and Shakespeare in Love, Prince Philip has asked to see the Nazi uniforms from Saving Private Ryan.

JASPER GERARD

## 'Those Tsars, Tsarinas and party General Secretaries who are internationally considered the most impressive were often the maddest'

To watch the increasingly frenzied race to be President of Russia, you would be forgiven for getting the impression that the job was somehow a desirable one, that you would not have to be seriously unstable to want it.

It seems that everyone who is anyone, from film directors to food magnates, is enthusiastically denying any intention to run (seemingly the accepted way of announcing the beginning of your presidential campaign).

To any outside observer, the advantages of being President here would appear to be few. In fact, aside from the fact that the Moscow traffic is completely cleared from the roads to allow the smooth passage of your entourage, they are non-existent. No leader in the whole documented history of the country can be characterised either by their uniformly great achievements or

by their sanity. Those Tsars, Tsarinas and General Secretaries who are internationally considered the most impressive were often the maddest.

Aleksei Konstantinovich Tolstoy's 19th-century poem *History of Russian Government* is a satire documenting Russia's changes of leadership, and though he recounts the literary triumphs of Catherine the Great's reign and the naval prowess of Peter the Great, the following refrain echoes throughout the poem: "Our country is rich but there is still no order here."

Yet to this day there are plenty of people clamouring to create some. It seems that half the presidential pretenders do not themselves know why they seek power. Yevgeni Primakov genuinely had no desire to step in when persuaded to become Prime Minister last September,

and such is the madness of Russian political life that he is one of the most popular contenders for President in 2000, although he still insists that he will not be running.

Vladimir Dvogan, however, a 36-year-old food and drink millionaire, has saturated the airwaves and billboards with adverts for his new Dvogan Party, even though he has failed to register even for December's parliamentary elections. He says he may run for President in 2004.

Nobody believes Primakov's claims of non-participation but I think his reluctance is entirely understandable. Primakov has said he wants to retire and do some fishing, which sounds good when compared with the job of constant crisis management

Anna Blundy



which could be his, and in fact already is his since Boris Yeltsin has slipped into the shadows of illness and incapacitation.

Sergei Kiriyenko the youthful former Prime Minister, ousted after precipitating the financial crisis last August, has also hurried himself back into the fray with his bid for a parliamentary seat centring on a series of heart-warming television advertisements which depict him building a toy town with his son.

His party, Novaya Sila, runs under the slogan "do it yourself", though Kiriyenko has hinted that he might, in fact, do it with Primakov in the presidential elections, should the Prime Minister finally decide to run.

In a televised interview last

Thursday night, Kiriyenko attested to his relative sanity and said that he hated politics. Although he could easily become a businessman or a consultant, it seems, nevertheless, that he just cannot help himself.

The film director Nikita Mikhalkov, who has admitted the remote possibility of his running for President if asked, launched his campaign last week with the premiere of his new patriotic film *The Barber of Siberia*, described by some as "an advert for Russia".

None of the world's many "whither, Russia?" pontificators really fancy Mikhalkov's political chances: this time round, since Primakov is at least managing to maintain the distance and dignity required of a man not running for President, while strenuously consolidating his power base.

The other candidates, whose

intentions are less of a secret, are hysterically rallying support Governor Aleksandr Lebed, Afghan War veteran and currently top of the volatile presidential succession polls, is set to attend the eighth annual Night of 100 Stars Oscar viewing party at the Beverly Hills Hotel as part of his unlikely effort to appear more palatable to the West, and Yuri Luzhkov, the Mayor of Moscow, continues to dazzle Muscovites and visitors to the city with Moscow's new look cleanliness and relative affluence.

People such as Grigori Yavlinsky, of Yabloko, can be virtually ruled out on grounds of sanity, whereas Gennadi Zyuganov, the leader of the Communists, well, you only have to take one look at him to see that this is a man who must, really, really want to govern Russia.

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سكان النهر





## THE COMMONS INTEREST

MPs should support radical reform of the Lords

The Royal Commission on Reform of the House of Lords will today hold its first official meeting. In nine months it must produce a blueprint for reform. Lord Wakeham's appointment to the commission in January was widely welcomed because of his reputation as an efficient and flexible chairman. It was assumed then that additional constitutional expertise would be offered by other members of his committee. Although the 12 people who will assemble this morning are distinguished figures, relatively few have specific knowledge of this area. This has fuelled fears, as we report in our pages today, that the commission might feel confident to recommend only the minimum changes.

A limited approach might restrict itself merely to the abolition of the 91 hereditary peers allowed for in the plan that cost Viscount Cranborne his job last year and the introduction of a similar number of elected or even indirectly elected individuals. The bulk of the new body would be nominated. The powers of the Lords might be reduced to offset the new authority that even a slightly more democratic chamber could hold. This would be a grave mistake, producing an Upper House neither sufficiently elected to make its weight effective, nor sufficiently empowered to play the proper role of a second chamber. That would not correct the imbalances between executive and legislature that are at the core of Britain's constitutional difficulties.

There is, however, a powerful lobby in favour of such a flawed solution. It consists almost exclusively of long-serving members of the House of Commons. This cross-party contingent shares the sentiment that any truly credible second chamber would inevitably eclipse the standing of the Lower House. The larger the elected element, it is feared, the more intense is that threat. Lord Wakeham and Gerald Kaufman, the senior Labour Party appointee on the commission, might conclude that the reform which will be most widely welcomed in Parliament, thus

ensuring a swift passage into law, is one that closely reflects the wishes of such MPs.

This would be a major miscalculation of Parliament's best interests. It is not the case that a strengthened House of Lords must automatically lead to a commensurate reduction in the status of the Commons. Throughout this century the formal and informal powers of the Lords have remorselessly declined. This has not made the Commons an ever more mighty force. The opposite is true. The main beneficiaries of a weak second chamber have been ministers and party managers. They, and not the House of Commons, would again be the victors if the Royal Commission backs only marginal alterations to the structure of the Upper House.

Britain needs both Houses of Parliament to become more vigorous institutions. This alone will allow for rigorous scrutiny of the executive, a searchlight that, by exposing defective policy early, is ultimately in the interests of the Government as well. Serious reform of the House of Lords can be the catalyst for a long overdue modernisation of the House of Commons. Indeed, it may be the only event that emboldens backbenchers on all sides to demand new rights. The Conservative Party has spoken of late of its desire to restore the prestige of Parliament. It can advance that cause through Lords reform.

If the Tories are to have influence, they must act quickly. The committee led by Lord Mackay of Clashfern will shortly produce a set of options which the Shadow Cabinet will then consider. The Conservatives require a single, distinctive and radical proposal. This should lead them towards a reformed House of Lords that is half-elected and half-nominated. The elected section should contain members serving for lengthy, non-renewable terms to ensure their independence. Such a programme would put pressure on the Labour Party to endorse an equally imaginative scheme. It would also be an invaluable contribution to this most important debate.

## GOOD EUROPEANS AGAINST EMU

A powerful, coherent non-partisan case for staying out

The Commons exchanges that followed Tony Blair's presentation of the National Changeover Plan last week revealed more about the political hand that the Prime Minister intends to play over the next two years than it did about the "objective" economic tests which the Government says will determine its position on EMU. Against reasoned, principled argument, his trump will be that those who oppose giving up sterling for the euro have a hidden agenda which is viscerally anti-European. Voters, he will suggest, have more sense than to align themselves with yesterday's men, old Tory dogs yapping at the heels of history's caravan. He will present the pro-EMU case as part of Labour's modernising agenda, a logical strategy for increasing Britain's international influence as well as its prosperity.

In response to this New Europe, the group that David Owen launches today to put the case against joining, offers a direct and powerfully argued riposte from a distinctively European standpoint. Lord Owen has long championed the European Union; so have the politicians, economists and business leaders around him. This is a non-partisan group of former Cabinet ministers from Left and Right. Lord Prior as well as Lord Healey, of businessmen and economists who have advised this Government as well as the last. It has resources, trustworthy leadership, and a simple, coherent message.

The heart of New Europe's case is that opposition to joining EMU is entirely consistent with a positive British role in the EU. That role should be to promote an upward-looking, dynamic Union, close to the governed and politically as well as economically flexible. Not only is staying

out consistent with this vision; it would actually fit better with a modern European vision than the fatalistic notion that just because the euro exists, Britain must join. That is because EMU is not only untested, but inherently flawed. A single interest rate cannot, by definition, take account of multiple national conditions. Rather than guaranteeing stability, growth and high employment, EMU could thus aggravate the rigidities that have inflicted stagnation and dole queues on much of the EU. For Britain, EMU would be a straitjacket.

Politically, EMU implies a federal Europe. A British decision to join would be, as the group points out, "a decisive step towards turning Britain into a mere province of Europe, with a consequent loss not only of independence but of democratic accountability". Outside, Britain retains the advantages of language, light regulation and flexible markets — and in sterling, a currency that would be more stable than the euro against the dollar. For these and other reasons that New Europe identifies, joining "in the foreseeable future" would actually make it harder, not easier, "to achieve the new Europe that we want to see", united, co-operative but not federal.

New Europe speaks to those, probably a majority of the electorate, who know that Britain's destiny lies within the EU but who have deep doubts about the political as well as economic wisdom of taking this irrevocable step. It provides an intellectual home for people of all parties and none. While working with groups such as Business for Sterling, it sees the need to stay well clear of other, Europhobic campaigns against EMU. This is a serious case, argued by serious people. It offers what Britain needs, a proper debate.

## TAKE THE HIGH ROAD

The Princess Royal should make Holyroodhouse her home

In 1822, George IV made the first visit to Scotland by a ruling monarch since the Jacobites. His visit caused a furore. Few Scots had seen their King before. And there he was before their eyes, dressed in a kilt, a garment that had been banned after the Jacobite rebellion. The magic of such a royal progress captivated the public and, 177 years later, faced with the prospect of separatist, centrifugal forces unleashed by devolution, royal advisers are now dreaming up similar plans to bolster the Union. Court sources have been quick to dismiss reports that part of their "Scottish initiative" could include making the Palace of Holyroodhouse the Princess Royal's "official residence". They should think again. Such an act could not be more apposite. George IV would have approved.

Given her close links with Scotland, the Princess Royal has excellent credentials to become a Princess Regent in Edinburgh. She has made more appearances north of the border than any other member of the Royal Family. Her son has played for Scotland in international rugby and she is herself patron of that vital institution, the Scottish Rugby Union.

Even so, the Princess would be forgiven for viewing the idea with trepidation. She might well be given a frosty reception by

some, especially members of the Scottish National Party. Its official policy is to retain the Queen as head of state when she is resident in Scotland, with the Speaker of the new parliament fulfilling the role in her absence. Yet according to a 1998 opinion poll, nearly half the SNP's candidates for the parliament would vote to abolish the monarchy. Their republicanism makes a royal presence even more important.

Holyroodhouse lies just a few hundred yards from the Scottish parliament. For the Princess to become a neighbour to politicians charting Scotland's future might be criticised as mere symbolism, but symbolism can be a powerful riposte to the lures of separatism.

A royal resident would remind Scots of the shared values that, even with devolution, bind the United Kingdom. Leaving the palace empty, bar the few weeks each year when the Queen makes it her home, could be cited by the SNP as evidence of an absent, uncaring monarchy, for whom Scotland is little more than a place for holidays. The Royal Family has a crucial, cohesive role to play in tempering Scottish separatism. The pageantry of monarchy might seem out of step with the modernism of new Labour, but it serves as a buckle for the Union and an emblem of continuity.

## Priorities for Nato peace negotiators

From Professor Emeritus Adrian Hastings

Sir, While they prepare for the commencement of the talks on Kosovo in two weeks' time, I suggest that the leaders of Nato ponder four near-certainties.

First, that the war cannot stop without actual Nato intervention. If it does not stop now, it will go on and on, with ever greater destruction and massacre on the Bosnian model. Nato's reputation will be in shreds and its threats will no longer carry the slightest weight.

Second, that the Kosovan claim to independence is very reasonable and its eventual achievement next to inevitable. Everything now hanging, and that has happened since 1989, takes its almost unthinkable that they should agree to remain yoked to Serbia. To close the road to future independence by not allowing for a referendum, even in five years' time, is as gravely undemocratic as it would be in the case of Scotland.

Third, that, paradoxical as it may seem, the only way to save the surviving Serb minority from extinction is to ensure Kosovan self-government now, with firm minority safeguards. The longer the war continues, the more certain it is that the Serb community will be so antagonised towards its Albanian neighbours that it will not survive.

Fourth, that Milosevic does not care in the least what happens to the Serb minority, any more than he cared about the fate of the Serbs of Krajina. What he cares about is that he stays in power in Belgrade.

Yours,  
ADRIAN HASTINGS,  
3 Hollin Hill House,  
219 Oakwood Lane, Leeds LS8 2PE.  
February 26.

## 'Unsafe' IRA conviction

From Mr Robert Rhodes, QC

Sir, His Honour Joseph Dean (letter, February 17) finds it difficult to see the justification for the Court of Appeal's recent quashing of the conviction of the alleged IRA terrorist, Nicholas Mullen, because he had been illegally deported from Zimbabwe rather than going through the proper extradition process.

The justification is simple. As Lord Griffiths pointed out in the House of Lords in *Bennett v Horseferry Road Magistrates' Court* (1993), the judiciary accept a responsibility for the maintenance of the rule of law that, in turn, refuses to countenance behaviour threatening either basic human rights or the rule of law.

Perhaps another way of putting it is that once the courts allow the executive to stoop to this sort of misconduct, they are reducing themselves to the same level as the allegedly wicked men they are trying.

Yours faithfully,  
ROBERT RHODES,  
4 King's Bench Walk,  
Temple, EC4Y 7DL.

From Mr Charles G. Blake

Sir, His Honour Joseph Dean thinks that the Court of Appeal should not have allowed the appeal of Nicholas Mullen merely because of gross illegality by the Crown before the trial occurred. But this is the effect of the Criminal Appeal Act 1995 which replaced the previous test of "unsafe or unsatisfactory" by the unitary test of "unsafe".

Before 1995 this would have been dealt with as an unsatisfactory verdict. There was nothing unfair about the trial process but, rather, the behaviour of the Crown was, according to the court, so bad as to require the sanction of quashing the conviction. That approach is now denied to the Court of Appeal. It had to force this case into the mould of "unsafe" when the safety of the conviction was not truly in issue.

The Home Secretary should look again at the 1995 Act. Whether illegality by the Crown can ever justify acquitting a defendant of a most serious crime is itself a matter to be reconsidered.

Yours faithfully,  
CHARLES G. BLAKE,  
46 Linden Gardens, W4 2EH.  
xds5@dial.pipex.com  
February 17.

## Seeing red

From Mr D. A. Lyett

Sir, Rose-ringed parakeets may be glamorous to look at and may well "do no harm to anybody" (Weekend, February 20), but I can vouchsafe that they need "keeping an eye on". I have found them very destructive to the chestnut and winter-flowering prunus trees; also the blossom and red berries are nipped from the base of the cotoneaster shrub and let fall.

These used to be a lovely sight at the appropriate time of year but now, with the advent of these birds, I count myself lucky if in spring the chestnut has a quarter (probably less) of what it used to display.

These invaders should not be viewed through rose-tinted spectacles, no matter how colourful they are.

Yours faithfully,  
D. A. LYETT,  
9 The Paddocks,  
Broadstairs, Kent CT10 3AJ.  
February 23.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pemington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

## Low gear urged in drive to euro

From Mr G. T. L. Rose

Sir, As an instinctive pro-European with over 40 years' involvement in voluntary work for the Conservatives, I was delighted to read the article by Mary Ann Sieghart, "Young, free and anti-single market" (February 26). I find it quite wrong that moderate members of the party such as myself should be labelled as right-wing xenophobes because we cannot support an early entry by the UK into economic and monetary union.

Should sterling be abandoned in favour of the euro, this country will have made an irreversible decision which will surely lead eventually to a federal Europe. This may come to be seen as the right economic answer within the next few years and, perhaps, in the longer term, also the right political answer. But the case is far from proven and I can only wish Mary Ann Sieghart, David Owen and their group every success in their campaign at least to delay the decision.

Yours etc,  
G. TIMOTHY L. ROSE,  
Emmendale, Clifton,  
Ashbourne DE6 2GR.  
February 27.

From Mr Clive Webster

Sir, As one who trades with most EU countries and many in other continents, I believe that the euro, like the US dollar, should become an excellent vehicle for inter-European and international trade.

However, the concerns which were so well identified in your leader, "Five tests for Europe" (February 24; letters, February 25, 26, 27), could be largely overcome if only the European governments concerned had agreed to a longer and more flexible transition, with the euro running in tandem with national currencies.

Business leaders and politicians are becoming increasingly polarised in their views. Yet both sides have valid arguments which would be largely overcome if we were permitted a longer period of transition to prepare our economy for the single currency.

Voters in our referendum, when it comes, should not be presented with a "euro yes or no" question when they may well want to vote "yes" for the

euro and "no" or "not yet" for abolition of the pound. It would therefore be better to delay the referendum, too.

The problems outlined in your leader are of immense consequence for all EU countries; but there is a sixth test, namely the intention of the EU to incorporate the former Eastern bloc countries in a very few years. Bearing in mind the impact that unification had, and still has, on the German economy and the mark, we should remain very cautious about abolishing the pound until those countries are fully integrated into the EU and performing to the Maastricht criteria.

Yours faithfully,  
CLIVE WEBSTER,  
Clive Webster Limited,  
Shoelands, Seale,  
Farnham, Surrey GU10 1HL.  
February 25.

From Mr B. E. Danton

Sir, The Danes initially voted against acceptance of the conditions set out in the Maastricht treaty. Subsequently these conditions were accepted after a second vote.

It, in the forthcoming referendum, the British people reject acceptance of the euro how many referenda will be necessary before, in the eyes of the Government, we "get it right"?

Yours sincerely,  
B. E. DANTON,  
20 Mere Close,  
Newport, Shropshire TF10 7OL.  
brian.danton@mere-close.freeserve.co.uk  
February 28.

From Mr Rupert Pepper

Sir, I see Mr Paddy Ashdown considers the Government has "crossed the Rubicon" with the Prime Minister's National Changeover Plan (report, February 24). Would this be the treacherous and megalomaniac act of Julius Caesar in 49BC, which plunged his powerful nation into years of civil wars and social and economic misery, earning its perpetrator a violent end within five years at the hands of his closest associates? Or does Mr Ashdown mean another Rubicon?

Yours faithfully,  
RUPERT PEPPER,  
Trinity College, Cambridge CB2 1TQ.  
February 24.

## Sale of art fakes

From Mr John Pittuck

Sir, While respecting David Gould's authority in the matter of fakes and original works of art (letter, February 22) I am not sure I can agree with his sweeping reference to much of modern art as "questionable rubbish".

What distinguishes the importance of any work of art, as I see it, lies not in the facility with which its technical style can be copied, but in less obvious and unscientific criteria. If it were otherwise the admired painstakingness of the Pre-Raphaelites would take precedence over the Impression-

ists and the uniqueness and invention of Matisse and Picasso among others.

Of course, the wheat needs to be sorted from the chaff in any age. Sadly, we find today a small handful of undeserving lightweight and their patrons receiving the bulk of the publicity. This should not detract from the many serious artistic developments in our time which will endure.

It is unfair to paint the majority of modern artists with the same brush.

Yours sincerely,  
JOHN PITTUCK,  
Hillside Cottage, 62 Dunmow Road,  
Bishop's Stortford CM23 5HL.  
February 22.

## Labour and tax

From Mr R. Mallace

Sir, In the leaflet enclosed with my 1999-2000 tax coding, the Inland Revenue explains that (to use its example) a 60-year-old married man with a total annual income of £5,500, who previously paid no tax, will now have to pay £43 tax because of changes to the married man's allowance.

This from a Government whose venality would make many dictators gasp in envy.

Yours sincerely,  
R. MALLACE,  
3 Hinton House Farm Cottages,  
Byfield, Daventry,  
Northamptonshire NN11 3QT.  
mallace@mcmall.com  
February 23.

## Nuclear power

From Sir Crispin Tickell

Sir, Sir James Hann (letter, February 10) is quite right to call for an "authoritative, independent study" on the future civil uses of nuclear energy. The Royal Institute of International Affairs has already identified this need, and I act as chairman of a steering group to set up just such a study within the institute's energy and environment programme.

We propose to run a series of workshops focusing on the more controversial topics, including waste disposal, safety, proliferation, economic viability and competition with other forms of energy. It would bring participants from a wide range of backgrounds together in a neutral forum.

The aim of these workshops is not to reach agreement between the different points of view, probably an impossible task, but to achieve a better understanding of the possibilities, in the hope that such information would help governments and the public worldwide to understand the issues and so help the decision-making process.

We look forward to support, both financial and moral, from Sir James and others who want an impartial scrutiny of the vital issues involved.

Yours faithfully,  
CRISPIN TICKELL,  
The Royal Institute of  
International Affairs,  
10 St James's Square, SW1Y 4LE.

## Biographers' place

From Mr F. G. R. Fisher

Sir, Where do biographers perch? This problem has exercised me for a number of years. It cropped up again today when I read in John Lowe's biography of John Sparrow (HarperCollins, 1998): "When John came to Winchester..." Other biographers speak of their subjects "coming to Oxford" and, a chapter or two later, "coming to Liverpool".

Do biographers actually seek lodging in these places before they pen the relevant paragraphs?

Yours faithfully,  
ROBSON FISHER,  
Craig Cottage,  
Lower Street, Dittisham,  
Nr Dartmouth, Devon TQ6 0HY.  
February 22.

From Sir Michael Moore,  
Director General of the  
Institution of Mechanical Engineers

Sir, What a good letter from Professor Ian Fells (February 10), advocating the virtue of nuclear power.

This institution was commissioned in June 1998 by the Engineering Council to produce views for the engineering profession and Government on energy for the 21st century. Nuclear energy is very much part of that equation.

However, we also need a balanced portfolio of primary fuels which recognises the UK's indigenous resources, coupled with the best available technologies, whether coal, gas, oil, nuclear or renewable energy.

How this can best be achieved in a market economy, which needs lowest-cost energy, has to be addressed by the politicians taking account of technical, economic and commercial advice.

We await action.  
Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL MOORE,  
Director General,  
Institution of Mechanical Engineers,  
1 Birdcage Walk, SW1H 9JJ.  
m.moore@imeche.org.uk  
February 10.

Sport letters, page 33

Letters for publication may  
be faxed to 0171-782 5044.  
e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

## End of 'subsidy' for classical music

From the Chief Executive of the Performing Right Society

Sir, The protest by Dr Donald Mitchell and five composers over our decision to cease subsidising live performances of classical music (letter, February 23) needs to be seen in context.

A report by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission in 1996 charged the Performing Right Society with making its distributions fairer, more accurate and more transparent. This has been achieved through an extensive two-year market research project which produced a statistically valid model for collecting performance information and for apportioning royalties more accurately than ever before.

We have therefore decided to remove all "hidden" special compensatory payments via royalty distributions, without value judgments which single out any particular genres of music. The phasing out of the classical music subsidy in its current form is in the same spirit of greater accuracy, fairness and transparency. Membership consultation has shown no majority support for a classical music subsidy.

The vast majority of our present subsidy to classical music is paid to music publishers and the estates of deceased composers, most of whom are not British. Far from the effect of its withdrawal being "devastating", only 11 per cent of it is paid to living British composers.

Although such subsidy will cease by 2002, we shall certainly continue supporting classical music, but in a more focused and transparent way.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN HUTCHINSON,  
Chief Executive,  
Performing Right Society,  
29-33 Berners Street, W1P 4AA.  
February 22.

From Mr Trevor Glover and others

Sir, The implications of the unilateral decision by the PRS will affect contemporary classical music in this country for years to come. Such music involves major investment by publishers, especially in the preparation of performance materials for large orchestral forces, and there is usually a long period before a new classical work gains public recognition. These costs, often unrecovered for decades, are funded by the publishers' share of these very revenues, which this decision has cut almost in half.

This comes as the final straw, following a series of changes to PRS distribution methods in the last decade which have all had an adverse effect on classical earnings in the UK. For example, a typical performance of a 20-minute work in the Queen Elizabeth Hall which earned around £275 in 1994 currently earns £180; after removal of the subsidy, this sum will fall to around £90, shared between composer and publisher.

These are desperate days indeed for publishers, composers and their estates in Britain, and the PRS decision will be viewed with incredulity in the international world of music, which still regards the fundamental contribution of the UK publishing community to be a benchmark for the creation, encouragement and promotion of contemporary classical music. We urge the PRS board to suspend abolition of the subsidy.

Yours faithfully,  
TREVOR GLOVER,  
Managing Director, Bossey & Hawkes,  
CHRIS BUTLER,  
Director, Novello & Co.,  
SALLY GROVES,  
Head, Contemporary Music, Schott Ltd,  
MARTIN KINGSBURY,  
Director, Faber Music,  
BEN NEWING,  
Head, Business Affairs, Universal Edition,  
JAMES RUSHTON,  
Director, Chester Music,  
295 Regent Street, W1R 8JH.  
February 26.

## Brit-spotting

From Lady Bowman

Sir, Mr M. D. Jervis asks if British women are as recognisable abroad as their male counterparts (letter, February 26; see also letters, January 29, February 6, 13, 18 and 20).

I can only report that, emerging from the sea at a trendy French beach having swum round from an adjoining cove, I was immediately addressed in English.

But could it have been because I was wearing a one-piece bathing-dress with a skirt?

Yours faithfully,  
CHRISTIAN BOWMAN,  
The Walden Garden,  
Chamberlain Street,  
Wells, Somerset BA5 2PE.  
February 26.

From Mrs Carole Howman

Sir, Whilst holidaying in Paxos, I went for an early morning swim in the bay. Anchored about a quarter of a mile away was a magnificent yacht, which I swam towards and around.

When I had completed the circuit a guttural voice called out "Go away English woman!" Being from Yorkshire I proceeded to swim round three more times.

Yours sincerely,  
CAROLE HOWMAN,  
Hillbrow, Church Green,  
Great Wymondley,  
Hitchin, Hertfordshire SG4 7ES.  
February 26.







# LADY PANSY LAMB



ually published bearing a cover drawing by Waugh.

The Lambos set up home at Coombe Bisset in Wiltshire in 1928 and as Anthony Powell said, "Henry threw himself into family life with the same sort of energy and enthusiasm he brought to everything he did. Soon they had three children, and because money was short [earls' daughters being on their own in that respect], Pansy continued her self-education by daily trips to Beaches second-hand bookshop just outside the Close in Salisbury, where she stood reading for hours. She had a very good memory and a large circle of friends, including Lord David Cecil, Cecil Beaton, L. P. Hartley, Kenneth Clark, and

Despite semi-blindness, she walked everywhere, an indomitable force of nature, brooding to avoid death by Roman traffic. Several times a week she took up position under the porch of St Peter's as one of the official guides for English-speaking visitors. Three years ago, she enjoyed a private audience with the Pope, for which she swapped her usual red and brown peaked cap for a black lace mantilla, showing the depth of her feeling for the man whose "spiritual energy" she so admired. Her companion on that occasion noted that she had "reverted to the Pope as a humble man" and reverenced Louis XIV — as well as with thoroughly enjoying the Vatican gossip!

Lady Fanny Lamb is survived by two daughters and a son.

In those crowded wards the worst cases were those of osteomyelitis – infection of the bone – which was then treated by releasing the pus from the marrow cavity by cutting a deep gutter along the length of the infected bone and encasing the whole limb in plaster. This, regardless of stench or maggots, was not changed for weeks, in the hope of avoiding the septicaemia which killed 25 per cent of adults and 80 per cent of children.

Rather shy, he was a courteous and popular teacher, with an engaging foible of humming *Lead, kindly light* when in difficulties with the sigmoidoscope. He was never ruffled, even when an explosion once singed his eyebrows. He became chairman of the Court of Examiners at the Royal College of Surgeons, and in retirement continued as curator of the museum in his old medical college, in which were lovingly preserved the relics of his parents' friend and patient, Joseph Merrick, the Elephant Man.

He was divorced in 1957, but he is survived by his daughter and two sons.

In 1954, Mitchell was appointed to take charge of sociology in the philosophy department at Exeter, where, as the junior academic partner, responsible for a new subject and eager to expand it, he was aware of the danger of becoming a cuckoo in the departmental nest. Fortunately, the needs of his subject and its growing number of students were accommodated.

lames, but it later concentrated on homes for the elderly, the physically disabled, and people with learning difficulties or needing nursing care. Now the owner of more than 60 properties, it has specialised in converting empty buildings, such as a disused village school, and extending them into groups of homes for community living.

He was a committed Christian all his life, and a lay preacher. He is survived by Margaret, his wife of 48 years, and by their son and daughter.

the ten water and waste water companies of England and Wales to successful privatisation in 1989. The selling to the public of a mixed bag of large, medium and small companies was unprecedented. The management teams sometimes bickered in public, but Gordon Jones harnessed the interests of boards of directors, government, banks, lawyers and accountants, and the eventual flotation was a success — perhaps because all of the big merchant banks, lawyers and stockbrokers in the City were themselves representing one or more of the companies or underwriting the offer.

Gordon Jones was born in Swansea, to which he returned when he retired in 1996. After Swansea University, and four years in the Royal Navy, he joined the British Iron and Steel Research Association, working on raw materials and energy planning. At Esso Petroleum, which he joined in 1960, he became head

which he joined in 1900, he became head of British industry sales, before returning to the steel industry as managing director of Rotherham Tinsley Steel and Firth Vickers. In 1979 he became a director of T W Ward plc. He was a member of the Government's advisory committee on

He was also a governor of Leeds University, and his interest in young people's education and training was reflected by his honorary fellowship of the University College of Swansea, and an

He married Gloria Melville in 1951. She survives him, along with their daughter and twin sons.

Although Purbrook was happy in almost all styles of

Purhrook's stage career began in 1963, during a spell as double bassist in Dudley Moore's trio, which provided the musical component of the revue *Beyond*

During the 1970s and 1980s, he often led his own bands, varying in size from a trio to a sextet, and his trio was frequently used by touring American soloists as a regular rhythm section. The theatrical and jazz sides of his work were most happily combined in his long association with the singer Annie Ross, whom he accompanied on and off for more than 25 years, including residencies within the last three years at the Pizza on the Park in Knightsbridge. His most recent recordings include

His former wife and a son survive him.



enny, left estate valued at  
\$2,471,859 net.

Phoebe Agnes Malet Hambleton, of Hyssington, Mont-

Edith Mary Meyers, of Bishops Hull, Taunton, Somerset.

**Craig Waller**, of London W10, left estate valued at £1,297,646 net. He left £1,000 to the King Edward VII Hospital

For some time past it has been apparent that the continually rising cost of presenting opera in this country might cause some curtailment of the activities of both the Car-

of which receive substantial subsidies from

of which receive substantial subsidies from the Arts Council. But the subsidies now available are insufficient to maintain two companies at their present levels and it does not appear possible for them to proceed as separate organizations after the early summer

In order to provide the widest possible coverage both in London and the country, the proposal is now being considered that the Sadler's Wells and Carl Rosa organizations should combine to set up a new trust encompassing both bodies. The new trust, with

The statement went on: "Monks are pursuing by Sadler's Wells since its opening in 1931, operating primarily as a metropolitan house and, since the war, in a complementary capacity to Covent Garden."

The statement went on: "Moreover, in spite of the re-employment that may be offered in individual cases, it involves the disbanding of the opera company which has been carefully built up over a long period and whose prestige is under attack."



## NEWS

## Bootleggers force Brown's hand

Gordon Brown is to unveil a tougher-than-expected Budget after being hit by a £2 billion shortfall in revenue, much of it because of tobacco smuggling.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer is expected to announce an investigation into the operation of Customs and Excise after officials told him that he was losing more than £1 billion in duty a year through organised cigarette smuggling. The worldwide drop in oil prices will also mean the loss of several million pounds in revenue. **Page 1**

## Euro challenge for Blair

David Owen and Denis Healey, veterans of the last Labour government, will return to the front line to present a new challenge to the Government's move towards the euro. They will join forces in a new group billed as pro-European. **Pages 1, 8**

## Rape trials row

Baroness Jay, Minister for Women, was last night at the centre of a row over Government plans to clamp down on women's sexual history being admitted as evidence in rape trials. **Page 2**

## Gibraltar siege

Three thousand people from La Linea legally work in Gibraltar and are protesting to their own Government that the border restrictions are threatening their livelihoods. **Page 9**

## Straw returns

The Home Secretary will be back at his desk today after disappearing for 72 hours at the height of the controversy over the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry. **Page 1**

## Palace dismayed

Buckingham Palace is dismayed by the limited role that the Queen will play in the opening of the Scottish Parliament. **Page 1**

## Playboys

The first lifestyle magazine for professional footballers has been launched, filled with glossy advertisements for fast cars, country mansions and yachts. **Page 3**

## Boxing fan killed

A boxing fan died after falling under the wheels of a coach while trying to escape fighting that broke out after a Commonwealth title bout. Violence raged around the ambulancemen as they tried to save the man's life. **Page 5**

## Broadcaster hurt

The award-winning broadcaster Sheena McDonald remained in a critical condition yesterday after being hit by a police van. **Page 6**

## £6,200 is the cost of old jokes

Dennis the Menace and the Bash Street Kids were mere twinkles in the cartoonist's eye when the first edition of the Beano was published in 1938. Lord Snooty is the only relic to have lasted into the 1990s and only the boy aristocrat and his pals could now afford the original edition, which sold at auction for £6,200, the largest sum paid for a comic in Britain. **Page 1**



## Cartoonist puts his stamp on Jenner

A SPECIAL millennium stamp by The Times cartoonist Peter Brookes, portraying the discovery of vaccination by Edward Jenner, is to go on sale tomorrow (Mark Henderson writes).

The design, which will feature on the 20p second class stamp, is released as part of the National Trust's collection. Jenner's Vaccination, it tells the 18th century story of how the Gloucestershire doctor discovered a medical advance which has saved millions of lives worldwide.

Dr Jenner noticed that the milkmaids in his village who had caught cowpox never went on to contract the deadly smallpox virus, one of the biggest killers of the day. He took vaccine (derived from the Latin vacca) from a cowpox sore and injected it into a boy, who developed an immunity to smallpox.

The Brookes design incorporates all the elements of the story. Dr Jenner and James Phipps, his patient, are portrayed in silhouette in the markings of a cow, which is milked by an immune maid. It also evokes his popular Nature Notes series, which is published in The Times on Saturdays. Mr Brookes said: "It is a great honour for a mere cartoonist. It's wonderful to be involved as there is a great galaxy of artists, illustrators and designers working on this project."

Preview: Tribe UK offers insight into the lives of young people (BBC2, 11.15pm). Review: The Builders raises the docusoap to an unexplored level of pointlessness, says Paul Hoggart. **Pages 46, 47**

## The Commons interest

Britain needs both Houses of Parliament to become more vigorous institutions. A serious reform of the House of Lords can be the catalyst for a long overdue modernisation of the House of Commons. **Page 21**

## Good Europeans

New Europe, the group that launches today to put the case against joining EMU, provides an intellectual home for people of all parties and none. **Page 21**

## Take the high road

The pageantry of monarchy might seem out of step with the modernism of new Labour, but it serves as a bulwark for the Union and an emblem of continuity. **Page 21**

## WILLIAM REES-MOGG

I do not know whether the millennium prayer is more offensive for its clumsiness, for the meretricious use of fragments of real prayers, or for the mind-numbing combination of vacuity of meaning with intellectual dishonesty. **Page 20**

## PETER RIDDELL

Failure to join the euro in the next Parliament would be a huge setback for Blair's strategy and would force a reassessment of his whole foreign policy. **Page 20**

## ANNA BLUNDY

To watch the increasingly frenzied race to be President of Russia, you would be forgiven for getting the impression that the job was somehow a desirable one. **Page 20**

Lady Pansy Lamb, writer: Colin Furber, jazz pianist; Clive Butler, surgeon; Duncan Mitchell, sociology professor; Sir Gordon Jones, Yorkshire Water. **Page 23**

Nato and Kosovo: National Changeover Plan; end of subsidy for live classical music; art fakes; nuclear power; rose-ringed parakeets. **Page 21**

## TOMORROW IN THE TIMES

■ ARTS  
Meet Michael Corder the choreographer who is going to make it all happen for the Royal Ballet

■ LAW  
Why copyright law could dog any imitators of One Man and his Dog

Mirror Bid: Trinity, the UK's largest regional newspaper group, took the next step in its bid to acquire the Mirror Group by tabling an offer worth more than £1 billion over the weekend. **Page 48**

Mobile Floot Cable & Wireless is considering a flotation of One-2-One. **Page 48**

Comeback: Stephen Hinchcliffe, the disgraced Sheffield businessman who has been charged with ten counts of corruption by the Serious Fraud Office, is trying to revive his career by making children's cartoons. **Page 48**

Rate Cut: The City is optimistic that the Bank of England will again cut rates when it concludes its monthly monetary policy committee later this week. **Page 48**

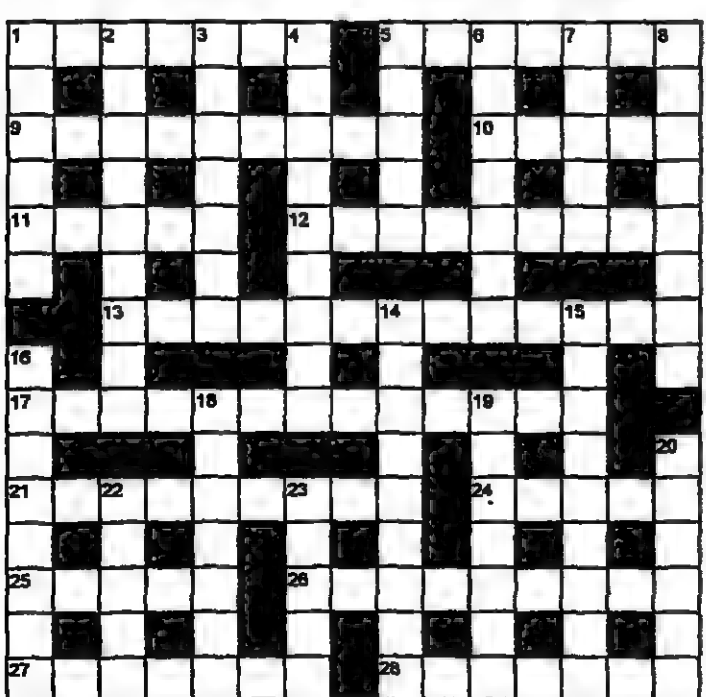
Hidden hero: In a quiet corner of Guildford, Surrey, lives Henk Huffer, an embarrassed hero who saved dozens of Jews from the Nazis. Grace Bradberry interviewed him. **Page 15**

Fabulously happening: Every five years or so, London Fashion Week is supposedly about to meet its Maker. But despite all the hand-wringing, the event is still very much alive. Lisa Armstrong reports. **Pages 16, 17**

Flower power: Susan MacDonald offers advice on what to buy for Mothering Sunday. **Page 40**



## THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 21,039

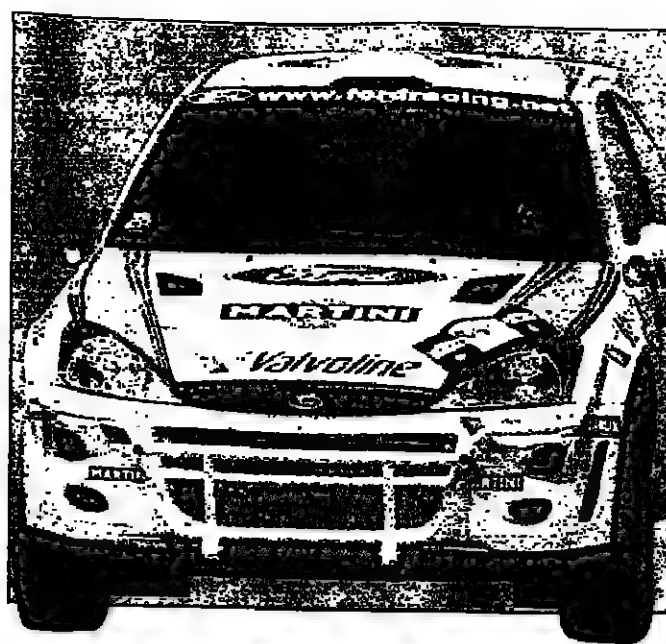


- ACROSS
- False claim he made to be bar (7).
  - Fail to go off and produce a report (7).
  - Reckless prosecutor about to take on junior counsel (9).
  - A president's first dance (5).
  - Arab's son mainly employed in sound reproduction (5).
  - Northern state nominates new assembly (9).
  - Certain people display shock after crew's dance (9-4).
  - Remain neutral, or restrain the criminal? (3,2,3,5).
  - Stimulating forrest of cooked tripe and peas (9).
  - Wrongfully seize old city, captured by American power (5).
  - Mature insect a long way back in the past (5).
- DOWN
- Idle talk's holding back queen with company, sire (9).
  - First-class teachers rejected outside one's country (7).
  - A couple of unknowns agent disposed of in Asian river (7).
  - Unassuming, as Mussorgsky was (6).
  - Back of chair used in clubs, luxurious and well-padded (9).
  - Put in fish that's going rotten (7).
  - Pet need of striker in uniform (4-5).
  - Fruit produced by bishops, perhaps, outside sea (5).
  - Cardinal takes drink with military men (7).
  - Northerner's home game - soldier turned up first (5).
  - Like taped music some remember as a blessing (8).
  - Money collected from party member without hesitation (9).
  - River worker secures share of profits as performer (9).
  - Spies act strangely, retreating from reality (8).
  - One joining alliance with partners in communities (7).
  - Time in special cell - but one isn't charged (7).
  - Excellent food brought in for each person (6).
  - Seaford pie originally served fresh before noon (5).
  - Goody-goody appearing in main drawing (5).

Times Two Crossword, page 48

Lowest Road and Weather conditions  
UK Weather: All regions 0230-044 910  
UK Roads: All regions 0230-044 410  
UK Rail: All regions 0230-044 240  
UK Air: All regions 0230-044 240  
UK Sea: All regions 0230-044 240  
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McRae and Ford have that winning focus

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Raised its power failure Battersea



It's my ball and I'm taking it home

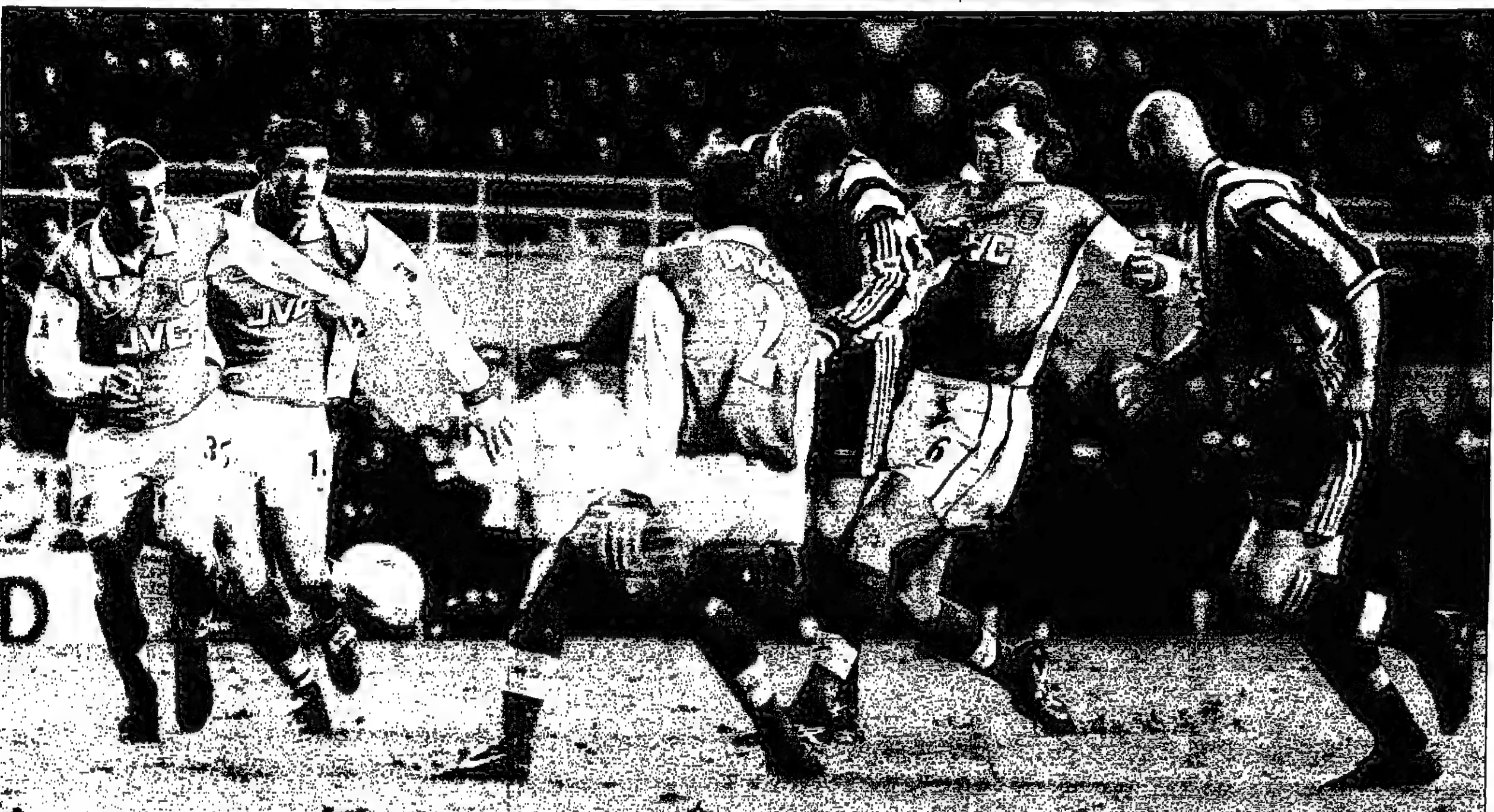
Page 25

# TIMES SPORT

MONDAY MARCH 1 1999

HAMANN STRIKES LATE TO

HALT ARSENAL'S CHARGE



Hamann withstands the challenge of Adams, the Arsenal central defender, to power Newcastle United's equalising goal past Seaman at St James' Park yesterday and add another twist to the FA Carling Premiership title race. Photograph: John Giles

## Le Saux faces trial by television

GRAEME LE SAUX, Chelsea's England defender, could face trial by television after referee Paul Durkin admitted that he would have sent him off had he seen his alleged elbow attack on Robbie Fowler. Durkin missed the off-the-ball incident during Chelsea's 2-1 win over Liverpool at Stamford Bridge on Saturday and will not be including it in his report to the Football Association. The official, from Portland, has since seen the clash on television, in which Le Saux appeared to elbow Fowler on the back of the head. "I can assure everyone that if I had seen it Le Saux would have been sent off," he said. "But neither I nor my assistant referee saw it. What happens now is down to the FA." The FA has used video evidence against players before, such as when John Hartson kicked Eyal Berkovic during a training session at West Ham United, and Le Saux could face disciplinary action. The BBC will provide the FA with a tape of the incident if asked. Steve Double, the FA spokesman, said: "It is an option while there is also the fourth official's match report to consider." The incident was the culmination of a running battle between Le Saux and the Liverpool striker.

## Pressure starts to take toll on champions

BY OLIVER HOLT  
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THEY fled the Tyneside gloom as quickly as they could last night. All but Dennis Bergkamp highlighted it out of St James' Park and headed for the airport and their flight back to London. Some of them moaned half-heartedly about the pitch, horribly heavy and devilishly rutted, but every Arsenal player mourned a more important piece of lost ground. In other circumstances, perhaps, a hard-fought 1-1 draw with a Newcastle United side that is threatening a modest resurgence might not have been cause for despondency for Arsene Wenger and his side, but such is the pace that Manchester United, Chelsea and Arsenal have been setting at the top of the FA Carling Premiership as the chase for the title approaches its climax that the two points the champions dropped yesterday, courtesy of a late equaliser by Diemar Hamann, acquired the air of a significant setback. United, who rested three players in advance of their European Cup quarter-final first leg with Internazionale on Wednesday, squeezed past the desperate challenge of Southampton at Old Trafford to record their eighth win in ten unbeaten league games and maintain their four-point lead at the top of the table. Chelsea, who seemed to have been clinging on to their own challenge like a boxer beginning to feel the effect of too many punches, defied those



Wenger: knows his team cannot afford mistakes

### UNITED IN THE TITLE CHASE

Since their last defeat - at home to Middlesbrough on December 19 - Manchester United have not a fewer place at the top of the FA Carling Premiership, taking 26 points out of a possible 30. Arsenal and Chelsea have tried their best to match them over that 10-match period but Aston Villa have found the going too tough and have dropped out of contention.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
MANCHESTER UNITED 26 (Last 10 matches)	16	9	3	3	63	29	57
CHELSEA 27 (Last 10 matches)	14	11	2	1	41	22	53
ARSENAL 27 (Last 10 matches)	13	11	3	3	35	13	50
ASTON VILLA 27 (Last 10 matches)	12	8	7	3	38	31	44

### ANELKA'S GOLDEN MONTH

For club and country Nicolas Anelka has enjoyed February, scoring 8 goals in 6 matches, and given Arsenal's title charge a cutting edge.

Date	Goals	Match
Feb 6	2	West Ham 0 Arsenal 4
Feb 11	2	England 0 France 3
Feb 17	1	Manchester United 3 Arsenal 3
Feb 20	3	Arsenal 8 Leicester 0
Feb 23	0	Arsenal 2 Sheffield Wed 1
Feb 28	3	Newcastle 1 Arsenal 3

who doubt them with some invigorating football as they outplayed Liverpool at Stamford Bridge. Those results heaped the pressure on Arsenal, the only one of the trio who have no European fixtures to dilute their commitment, to continue their own remarkable recent sequence of results in the North East and stay in touch. They seemed to have succeeded when Nicolas Anelka, who is so full of confidence that he seems to think he is going to score every time he gets the ball, claimed his sixth goal in four league games nine minutes before half-time, when he capitalised on successive mis-

mistakes. We are still in a good position and we have a game in hand, but it will be a hard battle." Arsenal's uncharacteristic surrender of a lead cast a shadow over what had been until then a superbly disciplined, resolute performance. Martin Keown and Tony Adams, the heart of a defence that has conceded only 13 goals all season, were heartless in the subjugation of Alan Shearer, unyielding in their domination of the England centre forward. Patrick Vieira, too, was outstanding at the hub of the side, leading the way in the pressing that joined the home team out of its commendable attempt to play neat, passing football. Despite the greater flamboyance of United and Chelsea, the suspicion remains that Arsenal have the best balance, the most resilience for the 11-game run-in. The combination of their near-unbreachable defence and the explosive-ness of the partnership between Bergkamp and Anelka is close to irresistible. Once, perhaps, Roud Gullit might have been in the thick of it himself, but when he was asked for his opinion on the latest twist in the title race, the Newcastle manager offered a wistful smile. "I have other sorrows now," he said. "Too many worries to be interested in that." Like the joys of others, Gullit spread his sorrow around on Tyneside last night. "The only problem we have now is that we, more than the other two, cannot afford any

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TENNIS

# Dubious tactics fail to bring down Krajicek

By Julian Muscat, Tennis Correspondent

RICHARD KRAJICEK could afford to be magnanimous. A tactic of dubious legitimacy from Greg Rusedski had transformed the Briton's fortunes to carry him within two points of the match before Krajicek, the better player throughout this final of the Guardian Direct Cup, regrouped to collect the sixteenth title of his career.

Rusedski himself would have savoured the quality of service that had swept Krajicek to the brink of victory. The hard part was complete. Krajicek merely had to hold serve, as he had throughout the match, for two more games to cash the \$128,000 (£80,000) winner's cheque. But after another ace, his 26th of the match, took him to 15-0, Rusedski delved into a murky world.

In mock protestation, Rusedski summoned a ball-girl, Victoria Lister, to rally with Krajicek, the move plainly aimed at fracturing his opponent's concentration. It worked. Detained, to much crowd banter, by a 14-stroke rally, which was comfortably the longest in the match, Krajicek then resumed — only to lose ten of the next 11 points. The two players were thus locked together at 4-4, with every prospect of a tie-break to settle a match that was firmly in Krajicek's grasp.

Krajicek's expression, when he then trailed 30-0, on serve, in the next game, told a very different story to the one that he would tell at the contest's conclusion. In the end, Krajicek, who rallied to lead 6-5, broke a flagging Rusedski to win 7-6, 6-7, 7-5 after two hours and six minutes of largely uninspiring tennis.

There was a hint of sarcasm in his voice when, in the post-match interview on court, he said: "The next time Greg is

serving me off the court I know what to do: just get a ball-girl to go out and play." Later, while suggesting that Rusedski might have indulged the crowd when he trailed 40-0, rather than 15-0, Krajicek blamed himself for the lapse in concentration. "It was a rookie mistake on my part," he said. "I thought it would be OK but I shouldn't have done it."

He also revealed that, in those difficult moments, he drew on the memory of his compatriot, Menno Oosting, who was killed in a car crash last week. "I wanted to win it for Menno so badly," he said. Krajicek, seeded No 4, attended Oosting's funeral in Son, near Eindhoven, on Saturday morning before returning to London to beat Thomas Johansson in the semi-finals.

Rusedski, for his part, made light of an incident which, in contrast to the smiling cartoon character he had portrayed all week, revealed a rare glimpse of his cold, calculating mind. "It is no big deal," he insisted. "I have had it happen to me before." However, when pressed to elaborate, the man with a memory bordering on encyclopaedic could not remember.

The gambit employed by

## Williams prevails over Mauresmo

SERENA WILLIAMS, of the United States, clinched her first WTA Tour title when she beat Amelie Mauresmo, of France, 6-2, 3-6, 7-6, in the Paris Open final. The 17-year-old was too strong for Mauresmo, who had won through after tough matches against Martina Hingis, the world No 1, and Dominique Van Roost, of Belgium.

Rusedski, seeded No 3, was far from unique. Boris Becker and Andre Agassi have used it, as did Goran Ivanisevic when hopelessly outplayed by Mark Philippoussis in the 1997 final at Queen's.

Yet none resorted to it when their matches remained so delicately balanced. Rusedski's calculated act was almost certainly prompted by his unbridled desire to triumph before a domestic audience — just as he mistakenly insisted on playing Wimbledon with one sound ankle eight months ago.

There was no doubt that Krajicek deserved his victory. In the opening set he stayed with Rusedski during the Briton's only spell of dominant serving. The ensuing tie-break, the twelfth since they first squared up six years ago, was effectively settled when Krajicek conjured a stinging backhand cross-court pass to reach set point with his service to come.

From that point Rusedski appeared to labour. To his credit, he pulled the second set from the fire when, in another tie-break, Krajicek double-faulted when seemingly in the ascendant. Opportunities were precious; when they came, they were usually neutralised by heavy serving.

In that respect, Krajicek gave Rusedski a taste of his own medicine: he dished out 30 aces to the Briton's ten.

Rusedski and Tim Henman now head to California for the Newweek Champions Cup, where Rusedski must defend 337 ranking points for reaching the final 12 months ago. Despite a stop-start first two months of the season, he has scrambled well; he should remain at No 10 when the world rankings are updated this morning. Henman is expected to stay at No 7.



Krajicek celebrates his hard-fought victory over Rusedski at Battersea yesterday

## British pair double the interest

GREG RUSEDSKI gained a measure of compensation for his singles defeat by Richard Krajicek when he combined with Tim Henman to win the doubles event yesterday (Julian Muscat writes). The Great Britain pairing won in straight sets over Wayne Ferreira, of South Africa, and Byron Black, of Zimbabwe.

To the delight of a vocal London crowd, Rusedski and

Henman captured Black's service midway through the opening set to secure the only break in the match. They then rallied from 3-6 down in the second-set tie-break to win five successive points, and with them, the match, 6-3, 7-6. It was the first time that the two Britons have contested a doubles tournament.

Rusedski and Henman used the event to prepare for

Great Britain's Davis Cup tie, against the United States, in Birmingham in April, when they are expected to renew their alliance in the doubles rubber. Rusedski never dropped service over the four matches he and Henman played here.

Henman, whose service was captured just once, said: "I think we have surprised ourselves a little bit."

# Kleinendorst standing by Storm troopers

Alan Lee reports on the ice hockey coach who has transformed the fortunes of Britain's biggest club

Manchester's significant minority, the increasing thousands for whom there is now more to sport than Old Trafford, will be relieved to learn that the eloquent American who has given them an arresting new identity intends to finish what he started. On the morning after the biggest and most influential club in British ice hockey officially became the best, Kurt Kleinendorst was already planning new horizons for Manchester Storm.

Europe is one challenge to conquer, the nurturing of British talent another, and Kleinendorst wants to stay and see it through. The Minnesotan arrived two years ago when playing inadequacy was threatening to vanquish the grand vision in Europe's largest indoor venue. His contract as coach and general manager has only a one-year option remaining, but Kleinendorst had words of reassurance for Storm's phenomenal support.

"I am happy and settled here and I have no plans to move on," he said yesterday. "There is a lot more to be achieved and it would take a special offer to get me away. I won't sort things out until the season is over, but I'm already thinking of next year."

Kleinendorst was at a Neil Diamond concert on Saturday night and emerged to hear that Cardiff Devils' forlorn pursuit of his team had ended with a 5-4 defeat at Bracknell. Manchester were champions of the Sekonda Superleague with three games still to play and the potentially dramatic fixture away to Cardiff last night was an irrelevance.

Manchester led the league virtually from first to last, losing only one of 19 home games within an otherwise fiercely competitive league. Their inheritance from Ayr, who have

fallen heavily from their grand-slam exploits of a year ago, seldom seemed in doubt but, with the most lavish facilities and enviable support and sponsorship, their triumph is a necessary landmark in the renaissance of the sport.

The league trophy will be presented before the home match with Nottingham on Thursday and the force of the Storm can be measured by the fact that more than 10,000 seats have already been sold. "It will be a special night," Kleinendorst said, "one of those occasions when you come out and think 'wow, that was really something'." One such night, three weeks ago, can now be seen to have secured the title for Manchester.

Their last home game with Cardiff came with the teams level on points and the Welsh club on a roll of seven wins. More than 12,000 saw Storm win 3-1, a victory as breathless as it was priceless. There are few men in this high-octane sport more inscrutable than Kleinendorst, but even his cool veneer collapsed with the last-minute goal, that confirmed the win. "I don't show my feelings much but that was the pivotal night," he said. It was the first of six successive wins for Storm, the first in five defeats out of six for Cardiff.

Kleinendorst's assignment now is to exploit that support base and create a new generation of British players. Manchester have only one home-grown player on their staff, the supremely-gifted Jonathan Weaver, and Kleinendorst is not confident of finding more like him.

"Kinks would rather take money for public skating than encourage locals to learn hockey," he said. "We are doing all we can, with a junior section and a week-long hockey school in April, but it is the biggest challenge the game faces."

## Scoring system beats Rolph

SUSAN ROLPH beat Katrin Meissner in both the 50 and 100 metres freestyle in their final outing of the winter World Cup season in Germany at the weekend, but lost the overall sprint freestyle title by an excruciating margin of two points yesterday.

In the end, the severity of Rolph's defeats compared with those suffered by Meissner during a maximum of six point-scoring rounds of the 12-event series mattered more than the fact that the British champion had won seven races to five victories for the German.

The pair met in three rounds, Rolph winning the 100 metres each time, Meissner winning the 50 metres twice but losing to Rolph on Saturday for the first time, 25.06sec

From Craig Lord in Gelsenkirchen

to 25.23sec. That she beat Meissner, 26, over 50 metres gave Rolph, 20, a great sense of satisfaction and confirmed that her winter training programme is on course to produce the success she craves at the world short-course championships in Hong Kong next month.

Yesterday's win over 100 metres, in 54.33sec, just 0.06sec up on Meissner, further confirmed Rolph's superiority as a racer. However, two victories do not a World Cup title make, accounting for 20 points, against the 14 for two

second places that took the German to 99 points, two clear of the Briton's tally.

The rivals had started the weekend eight points apart, a gap that owed much to the third and fourth place finishes that Rolph suffered behind Chinese swimmers while nursing a heavy cold in Beijing in January.

Meissner's worst finish was second place. In hindsight, Rolph would have been wiser to have opted to compete at the Canadian round of the cup instead of Beijing, but then World Cup rules do not allow entries to be switched.

As such, Rolph collected the £3,300 runner-up prize, against Meissner's £5,500, but considered herself the better swimmer beyond the eccentricities of the scoring system.

## Slough fail to disrupt holder's march to title

RUSSELLSHEIMER ruined Slough's hopes of breaking their stranglehold on the event when they cruised to their sixth successive title with a comfortable 7-1 win in the final of the European indoor championship in Glasgow yesterday (Cathy Harris writes).

Although the result was emphatic, Slough turned in a gritty performance and were rarely outplayed. The difference was in the superior skill and quality of the finishing, with Russellsheimer racing to a 4-0 lead before Sarah Kellcher made it 4-1 at half-time.

Slough's tentative display in the semi-final against Siauliai, the Lithuanian champions — where they were forced to recover from a 2-0 deficit before winning 4-2 —

did not bode well. With a squad of only nine fit players, the rigours of the tournament were bound to take their toll on the likes of Mandy Nicholson, Sue Chandler, Kelleher and Jane Smith, the competition's leading goalscorer.

Britta Becker, the Russellsheimer captain, scored twice along with Tanja Dickenscheld.

In the women's National League premier division, Doncaster, who sit at the bottom of the table, caused the first big upset of the season when they defeated the depleted leaders, Ipswich. First-half goals by Sally Wright and Carol Savage and a penalty-corner goal six minutes from time, from Claire Ferguson, steered Doncaster to victory.

## Reading use home advantage

### HOCKEY

By Sydney Friskin

READING responded to their home supporters yesterday by shooting their way to a 5-2 victory over Canterbury and a place in the semi-finals of the EHA Cup.

Humphries had cut Reading's lead to 3-1 early in the second half, but two quick goals by Briscoe and Pearn restored their superiority. The absence of Hacker, through injury, made a big difference to Canterbury who lacked inspiration in their midfield.

Before they could settle down they were two goals down, Barnes from a short corner, and Loose scoring for Reading. Then, two minutes before the interval, their plight worsened when Slay converted a penalty stroke. A goal from a short corner by Mathews just before the end

was small consolation for Canterbury.

Cannock, the holders, secured their place in the last four with a 4-3 home win over Lewes, of the first division. Edwards scored two goals from short corners for Cannock and Waters hit the target twice for Lewes from open play.

A goal by Thompson in the last minute from a short corner enabled Old Loughtonians to defeat Teddington 3-2. He had scored earlier to add to the first goal by Scott Smith. Wallis scored both goals for Teddington.

The final place in the semi-finals was taken by Southgate with an 8-3 victory over Hounslow, who trailed 7-1 at half-time. Grice was the only player to score twice for Southgate, but he could have been joined by Kwan Brown, of Trinidad, who missed a penalty stroke after scoring in the eighth minute.

It was a disappointing weekend for Canterbury who dropped from second to third position in the National League premier division after a 3-3 draw at home against Hounslow on Saturday.

Reading were out-gunned by Cannock, who, despite the absence of Crutchley, their injured sharp-shooter, went away with a 2-0 victory with goals by Pidcock and Hughes-Rowlands.

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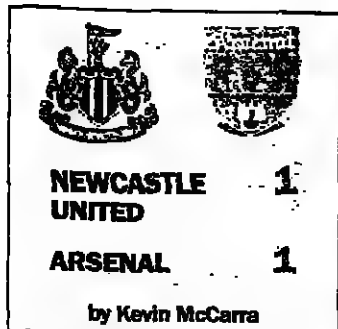






FA Carling Premiership: Germany midfielder dents title ambitions

## Hamann breaks Arsenal's cover



by Kevin McCarra

BAD timing, like a change in the weather, can turn an appealing jaunt into a treacherous journey. In previous days, progress might have been comfortable, but Arsenal, despite taking the lead, were unable to make their way through to victory yesterday against a Newcastle United side that is growing in resourcefulness.

Arsenal, seven points behind Manchester United in the FA Carling Premiership, may even come to see this as a day when the journey of their intended trek towards the title was disrupted and will think wistfully of occasions earlier in the season when such as West Ham United and Leeds United sauntered to St James' Park and amused themselves by administering a pasting.

Since then, the ground has ceased to be an amusement parlour for the day-trippers. Ruud Gullit has pieced together a team that functions more fluently. It would be idle to pretend that he is in anything more than the early stages of overhaul and there were spells yesterday when Newcastle looked uneasy. Yet they never capitulated and newcomers such as Didier Domi have brought a solidity that foiled Arsenal's efforts to take decisive control.

Even more importantly, Newcastle, when the prospects appear dreary, have the potential for effectiveness, as they had shown when conjuring a fine goal to knock Blackburn Rovers out of the FA Cup last week. They targeted this resource against Arsenal when Temuri Ketsbaia, a substitute, fed Dietmar Hamann in the 77th minute. The German midfielder player strode on to weave his way into the cluster at the centre of the Arsenal defence. This is a course that is usually about as safe as sprinting into the midst of a motorway.



Anelka, who had been put clear by Bergkamp, strides past Given, the Newcastle goalkeeper, to put Arsenal ahead at St James' Park. Photograph: Ross Kinnaird/Allsport

Hamann, however, was not mown down and kept his balance to stab a controlled shot into the corner of the net. It was a breakthrough that also smashed the highly familiar shape that the game had been assuming. Were it not for that inspired intervention, this would have been the most old-fashioned of Arsenal successes. In the gap between Newcastle's bright opening and the equaliser, Arsène Wenger's side had plied their trade with deadening efficiency.

Arsenal, above all, are the team to fasten mercilessly on to a small advantage, for the champions are famous for the relish they take in a close contest. For them, the satisfac-

tion inherent in a narrow win would have been as great as that of any rout. No matter what other renovations have been undertaken by Wenger at Highbury, that trait has been preserved with a conservatism's zeal.

Alan Shearer cheerfully exchanged thumbs with his England team-mates, but the resilience of Tony Adams and Martin Keown is not to be broken down by mealy blows. In the end, guile was to prove their undoing and, by that late stage, artifice was not expected to make an appearance.

It was not always the players' fault that the action, which saw Remi Garde taken off on a stretcher

off in the fourth minute following a challenge by Solano was a matter of bump and bruise. A soft, abraded surface made the ball a bit of a stick-in-the-mud and, as the passes refused to roll, a static game joined the players together through tugs and busses.

The resilient aspect of Arsenal was highlighted by Patrick Vieira, the sentinel in midfield, whose guard duty still allowed him time off for bouts of defiance. In the twentieth minute, he turned near his own corner flag to detach himself from Brady and embark on a loping surge before supplying Nicolas Anelka, who sent Overmars through with a flick.

Newcastle could not stop Arsenal then, but Mike Reed, the referee, did, deciding that Anelka had been fouled by Nikolaos Dabizas and declining to play the blatant advantage. Even so, Gullit's side were not to be saved from themselves in the 36th minute. Both of Newcastle's centre backs were at fault, with Steve Howey fluffing a clearance to Bergkamp and Dabizas failing to intercept the pass from the Dutchman that sent Anelka clear to drift round Shay Given to finish.

The episode left Newcastle with an acrid taste, but there had been sourness in their mouths for a while. In the 29th minute, Solano had taken possession from Speed to

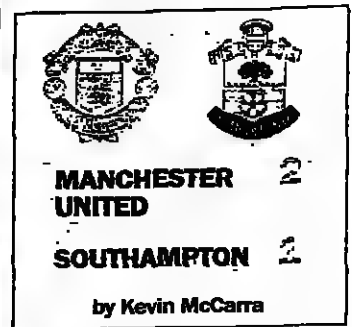
stride to the byline and deliver the ideal, low cross to the back post. Shearer waited there and looked almost nonchalant as he thrust out his right foot to mudge the ball home. Somehow, he made no contact at all.

Newcastle continue to have several faults, but, under Gullit, enough talent has been amassed to ensure that, on days like this, they can atone for them.

NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-4-2): G. Given — I. Chelvel, E. Howey, M. Dabizas, D. Duff — M. Solano (sub: T. Katsila, 60min), D. Hamann, G. Speed, G. Brady (sub: R. Lee, 60) — L. Saha, A. Shearer.

ARSENAL (4-4-2): D. Seaman — L. Dixon, M. Keown, A. Adams, M. Westwood — R. Pardo, P. Vieira, R. Garde (sub: S. Hughes, 41), M. Overmars (sub: M. Upson, 85) — N. Anelka, D. Bergkamp. Referee: M. Potts.

## Beckham rises above United's indifference



by Kevin McCarra

PRE-MATCH entertainment is good for business only because it sends many supporters fleeing for the snack bar. The crowd actually stayed and grumbled in its seats at Old Trafford, but could not have mistaken the fact that this fixture was a desultory preliminary to the real event. Ryan Giggs, Dwight Yorke and the rest were a warm-up act for themselves. They did no more than kindle interest in a performance of one hopes, far greater dimensions that they will give against Internazionale in the home leg of the European Cup quarter-final on Wednesday.

There is more often a glint than a twinkle in the eye of Alex Ferguson, the manager, and he did not consider the long listlessness pardonable. One figure met his standard. While others took the field yet excused themselves duty, David Beckham's desire to make passes was never sated. Every move that brought or promised a goal had a contribution from Beckham embedded within it.

There was nothing statuesque in his display, no inclination to content himself with striking long balls from deep positions. He often ran hard at Southampton and, in an undistinguished match, the loss of him would have been intolerable. Even the referee was, rightly, solicitous of his welfare. When Beckham was brought down by Patrick Collister, Peter Jones was as eager to calm the midfield player as he was to book the Frenchman.

After his dismissal against Argentina at the 1998 World Cup, there has been a contrived yet persistent hostility towards Beckham from the fans of other clubs. It may be that, as a riposte, he has learnt to apply his skills with greater concentration than ever. Even Ferguson, who was otherwise in no mood for plaudits, said: "He has been magnificent for us this season."

In the game with Inter, Beckham will face Diego Simeone, the man against whom he retaliated to earn that red card at the World Cup. On Saturday, however, United eventually demonstrated that the excitement of their European Cup campaign will spring from more than the melodrama of one man's life. Having tried to rest some important members of the team, Ferguson found that the competence of the visiting team compelled him to reinstate them as substitutes.

SOUTHAMPTON, surprisingly confident at a ground where they have now lost ten matches in a row, kept possession well in the first half, even if they fashioned virtually no chances. Beckham set up Yorke and Giggs for headers that were blocked on the goal-line, but United's discontent grew and Roy Keane was brought on to generate the pace that had been lacking in the build-up.

The erosion of Southampton was under way and they also lost Ken Monkou with a hamstring injury. In the 79th minute, Beckham's corner was nodded back by Henning Berg, laid-off by Yorke and finished with the low shot from Keane that deflected from the leg of Collister. Four minutes later, Beckham barely broke stride as he aimed Denis Irwin's awkward, dropping clearance to sidestep Paul Jones, the goalkeeper, and increase the lead.

All the same, United should experience a little unease. Once more, they were as unhappy at set-pieces as they have been in the European matches. James Beattie met a corner from Matt Le Tissier, a substitute, and headed against the bar when the game was goalless. In injury time, Le Tissier, unhampered, glanced home Jason Dodd's free kick. A minute earlier, Peter Schmeichel had dived for a Le Tissier shot and spooned the ball to Beattie, who hit the post. There is still remedial work of one sort or another to be done at Old Trafford.

MANCHESTER UNITED (4-4-2): P. Schmeichel — G. Neville, H. Berg, R. Johnson, P. Neville (sub: D. Irwin, 70min), D. Beckham, P. Scholes (sub: R. Keane, 48), N. Butt, R. Goss — D. Yorke, O. G. Schuster (sub: A. Cole, 67).

SOUTHAMPTON (4-4-2): P. Jones — J. Dodd, K. Monkou (sub: F. Beattie, 59), C. Lundmark, P. Collister — D. Hughes, M. Oakes, C. Marsden, W. Bridge — J. Beattie, E. Cochrane (sub: M. Le Tissier, 67). Referee: P. Jones.

## Gregory reconciled to failure

EVEN as they sat six points clear at the top of the FA Carling Premiership earlier in the season the feeling remained that Aston Villa would slip behind the true championship contenders come the winter. Few, not least John Gregory, the manager, expected such a steep decline and fall.

Gregory was merely stating what has become glaringly apparent when he effectively conceded defeat in the challenge for the title after a shocking reverse on Saturday. There might have been a hint of exaggeration when he declared the performance as the "worst of my life as a player or a manager", but not of his candid assessment of Villa's present situation. "We are in deep trouble," he said, or words to that effect.

If Leeds United beat Leicester City tonight then Villa will slip to fifth place, their lowest position of the season. But regardless of the result at Filbert Street, self-belief is

so low, rhythm so disjointed and injuries biting so deeply that a place in the Uefa Cup, the worst-case scenario until recently, must now be considered uncertain.

While Coventry City played with the passion and purpose usually reserved for the last game of the campaign, when their status hinges on the result, they were ushered to a first league win at Villa Park as smoothly as guests at a wedding. Flimsy both in defence and midfield, Villa stood uneasily in a linear 4-4-2 formation that saw the flanks and the full backs offering little support.

"I saw things which confirmed my worst fears about certain players," Gregory said. "There are a lot of injuries and not much confi-

dence, but when you boil it all down those are excuses not reasons. I have not dealt with matters too well so I'm facing a huge test myself. But I am a good manager, and I intend to do something."

Although he suggested that movement in the transfer market represented the easy option, it is one that he is likely to take. "We should have gone and spent another £10 million on players to strengthen the squad. Failure to land the Juninho deal was a huge disappointment," he added.

A suggestion that Atlético Madrid are considering Gregory as a replacement for Arrigo Sacchi, sacked as the coach last week, has arrived at a convenient time for the manager as he seeks support from the boardroom before the transfer deadline next month.

Alan Stubbs, the Celtic defender, remains a target, but whether Stubbs can provide the strength of the injured Ugo Ehiogu is a moot point. It is difficult to imagine the robust Ehiogu being muscled out of the challenges that led to the

first two Coventry goals. After 24 minutes Aloisi turned ahead of Scimeca before angling his low shot across Oakes. Then, five minutes into the second half, Scimeca again allowed himself to be beaten by Boateng, who scored at the near post.

By this time Boateng had secured a firm grip in midfield to complement the craft of McAllister and endeavour of Teiler. Coventry could consider themselves unfortunate that Uriah Rennie, the referee, deemed a challenge by Shaw on Joachim worthy of a penalty, and if Dublin had scored from close range four minutes after converting from the spot then Gordon Strachan, the manager, might have spoken more caustically about the decision afterwards.

Instead, Aloisi reacted smartly when Southgate lost his balance to volley in a free kick by Froggatt in the 72nd minute and Boateng completed the victory by lobbing Oakes as the goalkeeper tried to cut out a through pass by McAllister. A serious ankle injury to Watson and a muted display by Dublin compounded the difficulties facing Gregory.

Strachan has a happier problem in how to accommodate the predatory Aloisi when Whelan recovers fitness. "Huckerby and Whelan want to play good football and like scoring goals, but Aloisi is just desperate to score goals," Strachan said. Other defences will offer the Australia striker less assistance.

ASTON VILLA (4-4-2): M. Oakes — S. Watson (sub: G. Smith, 60min), A. Wright — P. Manson, S. Grayson, I. Taylor (sub: M. Draper, 25; sub: S. Collymore, 60), L. Hendrie — D. Dublin, J. Strachan.

COVENTRY CITY (4-4-2): M. Hedman — R. Nelson, R. Shaw, P. Williams, D. Burnham — G. Boateng, P. Teiler, G. McAllister, S. Froggatt — D. Huckerby (sub: G. McSherry, 80), J. Aloisi. Referee: U. Rennie.

## Houllier building on weak foundations

NEXT to Gérard Houllier, Gianluca Vialli, with his penchant for school-uniform colours and jumpers, looks every inch the keen student. But Houllier, while appearing professorial, needs to peek over Vialli's shoulder to discover the formula they are working to at Stamford Bridge.

Chelsea's victory came too easily. Liverpool only applying pressure in the final 20 minutes, and had the visitors secured a draw, no one would have been fooled.

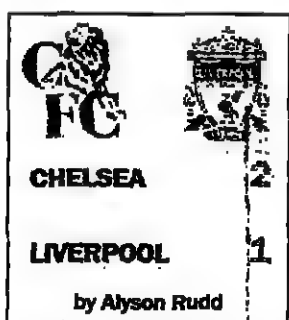
Chelsea should have doubled their goal tally while so evidently on top, but that has been their bugbear all season and still they keep on winning. Liverpool cannot keep on doing anything except bow to the gods of inconsistency. It is not difficult to picture Houllier buried in the bootroom, chalk in one hand, board duster in the other, trying to unearth the formation that will solve the puzzle and unleash on to the FA Carling Premier-

ship a Liverpool side that lives up to its billing.

That is perhaps at the root of the problem. All this foot-dling, twinking and cajoling has to stop. Liverpool should have been rebuilt years ago, possibly twice over since they last won the league title in 1990. Arguably Bill Shankly's greatest talent was in seeing decline in the midst of victory, of planning beyond the next cup final, the next trophy.

Now the opposite is true. Houllier is clinging on and building around foundations that are just are not strong enough. Both Liverpool and England are suffering because the partnership of Ince and Redknapp in midfield is considered a perfect combination of guile and guts. Well, it ought to be, and on occasion it has been, but their fine performances do not outweigh their disappointing ones.

Against Chelsea, Liverpool gave away possession in midfield and put the defence



by Alyson Rudd

under constant pressure. Babb and Matteo coped reasonably well, and while Kvarme and Bjornbye blundered, struggling to adapt to the 4-4-2 formation forced on them when Heggen had to be replaced in the ninth minute, the entire back line could argue they had been let down.

Houllier has been protective of the team when on their travels, they have lost ground — this was their eighth away defeat of the season — but on Saturday he was less inclined

to find excuses. Even so, he restricted his criticism to the niceties rather than the fundamentals. "We build up too slow. What gives fluidity to a game is movement," he said. Some disillusioned supporters might want to see movement of a different sort. With only a decent placing in the Premiership to strive for, Liverpool are in danger of becoming insular and obsessed.

Chelsea's concentration ebbed a touch too early, but you could almost forgive them for believing they had done enough in the first half to win the game. They rotate much more than just their strike-force at Stamford Bridge. They take it to be heroes too. Right now Goldback is the toast of Fulham Road. He and Petrescu enjoyed themselves, ping-pong the ball from wing to wing, leaving the visitors dizzy and disorientated, and from a deep cross by the Ru-

manian, Goldback snatched Chelsea's second goal. "I was unmarked," he admitted. That happens sometimes but why had no one on the Liverpool bench noticed that Goldback had been continuously unmarked and ordered Kvarme to stalk him?

Liverpool could have played the misfortune card early on, Babb giving away an early penalty, converted by Lehoucq, after it appeared he was not intentionally handling the ball but claiming a foul against him by Flo.

Liverpool created chances other than the one that led to Owen's goal in the 77th minute, but it is not just Chelsea who have brushed them aside this season. CHELSEA (4-4-2): E. De Goey — A. Fener, M. Dennis, F. Leibold (sub: B. Larnaudou, 50min), G. Leaver (sub: E. Newton, 50) — D. Petrescu, R. D. Martinez, J. Morris, G. Goldback (sub: J. M. Foster, 60), G. Zola.

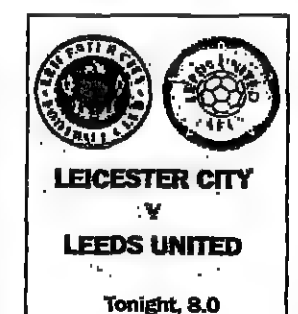
LIVERPOOL (3-5-2): D. James — B. T. Kvarme, G. Matthews, P. Babb — V. Heggen (sub: J. M. Foster, 48), P. Bergby (sub: K. Reddie, 80), S. I. Bjornbye — M. Owen, R. Foster. Referee: P. Durkin.



Richard Hobson. Speculation over the next manager of Leeds United overshadowed an otherwise forgettable encounter between these clubs last October. When Tony Cottee earned Leicester City a 1-0 win at Elland Road, the odds on Martin O'Neill replacing George Graham shortened.

Some three weeks passed before O'Neill finally rejected the overtures from Elland Road and David O'Leary accepted the post. Leicester supporters danced in the streets, while at Leeds they reserved judgement. Half a season later, the verdict on O'Leary could hardly be more favourable.

Victory against a Leicester side without a win in six league games tonight will lift Leeds into fourth place in the FA Carling Premiership and raise hopes for a Uefa Cup place next season. Radebe, who was due to arrive home from South



Tonight, 8.0

Africa at 6am this morning, will play his second game in three days, having appeared for his country against Gabon on Saturday, but Woodgate is suspended. O'Neill recalls Cottee, while Heskey is expected to have recovered from a back problem.

LEICESTER CITY (possible 3-5-2): R. Koller — P. Karmach, M. Elliott, R. Uthman, F. Sinclair, T. Zogorakis, N. Lennon, M. Frost, S. Guppy — A. Cottee, E. Heskey.

LEEDS UNITED (possible 4-4-2): N. Raftery — G. Hogg, D. Whelan, L. Radebe, I. Harte — A. J. Hirst, L. Bowyer, D. Higgins, W. Korson — J. F. Hasselbaink, H. Kewell. Referee: G. Barker.

TELEVISION: Live on Sky Sports 1, from 7pm. PREDICTION: Home win.



Sutton: Flattered

## Chelsea chase Sutton

HAVING made what appeared to be a tongue-in-cheek approach to Chris Sutton, the Blackburn Rovers forward, Chelsea's interest may be more serious (Alyson Rudd writes).

After Blackburn's 1-1 draw at Stamford Bridge two weeks ago, Suzanne Diwyer, the partner of Ken Bates, the Chelsea chairman, asked Sutton: "How do you fancy playing for us?"

What Sutton assumed was a joke has now turned into

genuine interest. Chelsea's FA Carling Premiership, FA Cup and Cup Winners' Cup campaigns are all in robust health, despite their apparent struggle to score goals.

Sutton, who would cost around £10 million, could make the difference while Tore Andre Flo regains full fitness and Mikael Forssell, the young Finland forward, learns his trade in the Premiership. "It's flattering when a team like Chelsea want you," Sutton said.

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LEICESTER	SCORE	LEEDS	
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12/1	2-0	10/1	
10/1	2-1	8/1	
28/1	3-0	20/1	
22/1	3-1	16/1	
25/1	3-2	25/1	
8/1	4-0	8/1	
11/2	4-1	11/2	
14/1	2-2	14/1	
<div>Other scores on request.</div>		<div>Wets void if match not completed</div>	
		FIRST GOALSCORER	
5/1	HASSELBAINK (LU)		
6/1	SMITH (LU)		
13/2	HESKEY (LU)		
7/1	COTTEE (LU)		
10/1	KEWELL (LU)		
14/1	ELLIOTT (LU)		
16/1	HARTIE (LU)		
20/1	GUPPY (LU)		
25/1	LENNON (LU)		
8/1	NO GOALSCORER		
		<div>Other players on request.</div> <div>Wets void if match not started.</div>	
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# Nationwide League: Bradford rise while Goldberg's popularity sinks in victory

## Jewell revels in thrill of the chase

Bradford City.....1  
West Bromwich Albion.....0

By PAT GIBSON

CRAZY. Paul Jewell, the Bradford City manager, called it Strange. Denis Smith, his West Bromwich Albion counterpart, concurred. They were talking about the Nationwide League first division in which no fewer than eleven clubs are still clinging to the hope that they can join Sunderland, the runaway leaders, in the FA Carling Premiership next season.

Jewell's remark was prompted by the news of Bolton Wanderers' 3-1 home defeat by the bottom club, Crewe Alexandra, which had allowed Bradford to sneak back into the

Results and tables.....32  
Lynne Truss.....35

second automatic promotion position, behind Sunderland. "That sort of thing can happen in this division," he said.

Smith's comment was in support of his contention that West Bromwich can still win a place in the play-offs, despite the fact that they have now taken only one point from their past four games and dropped to ninth.

"Everybody is hearing one another," he said. "We've had a bad month and it's not done us the world of good. It has made life extremely difficult, but it isn't over yet. I've just told my players that it's only March. The season finishes in May."

Bradford did not need reminding of that but there is a growing belief at Valley Parade that they are on their way back to the top division of English football for the first time since the 1921-22 season.

They have been beaten only once in their past 13 league games and Jewell reflected his pleasure in the way they are churning out results in his chipper, Scouse way. "I'm

glad we're out of our slump," he said. "Two draws and a victory. Terrible."

Bradford still have a long way to go if they are to compete on a regular basis with the club that was relegated with them 77 years ago — it just happened to be Manchester United — but, on Saturday, they showed a similar facility for winning games without playing as fluently as they can.

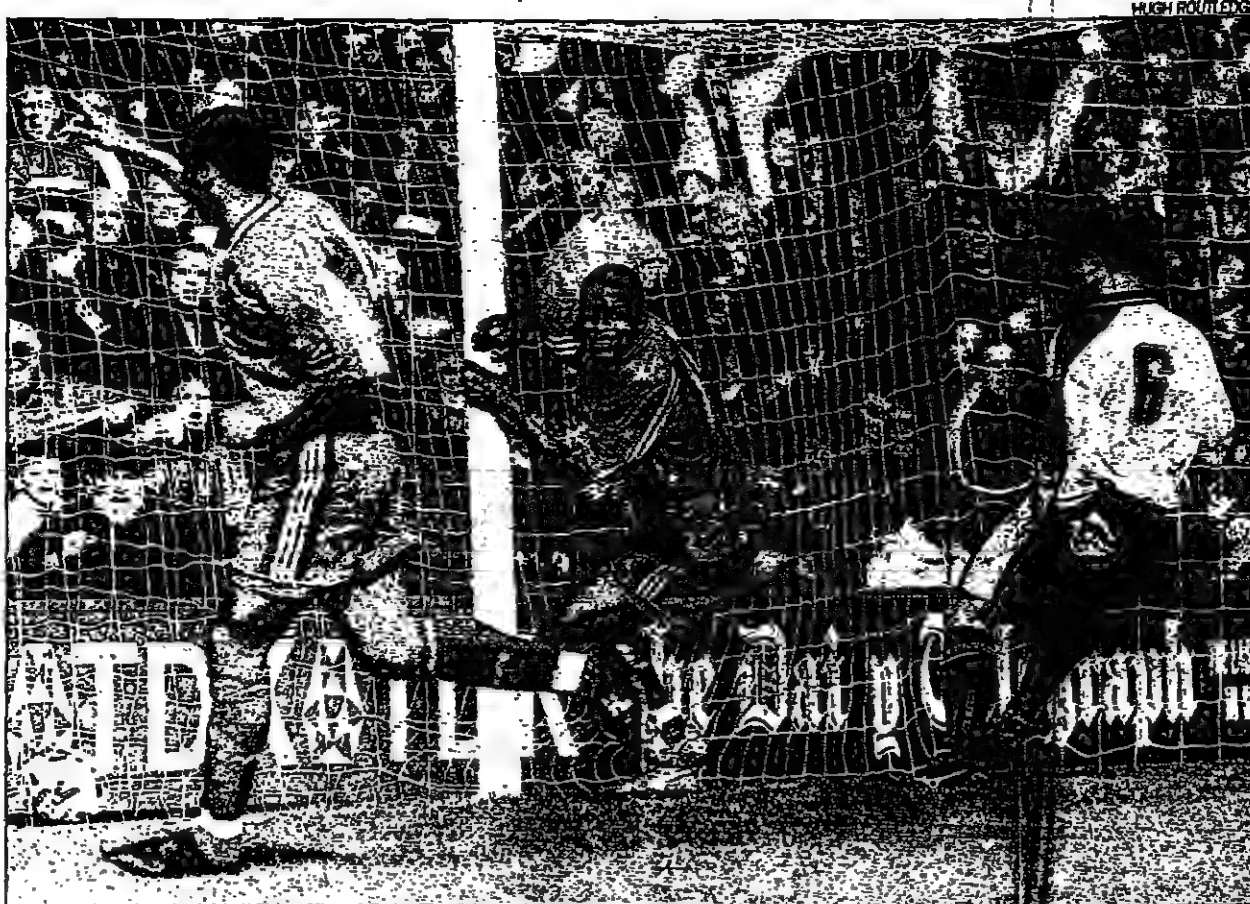
There were valid reasons for that. They were without the influential Beagrie on the left because of injury and when their other winger, Lawrence, went off in the 17th minute with a bad back, they had to split their prolific striking partnership of Mills and Blake to retain their shape.

There was an unexpected bonus, however. Jewell pushed Jacobs, normally a left back, into a left-sided midfield position in place of Beagrie and was able to claim afterwards, albeit with tongue firmly in cheek, "an inspired change of tactics by the manager. I always knew he could play left wing."

Apart from that, Jacobs scored the goal, after only two minutes, to upset West Bromwich's pre-match plan to pack their midfield in order to make themselves more solid in defence. Sneekes conceded a foul on the right and, when Whalley's free kick was headed out, Jacobs's shot was deflected past a wrong-footed Whitehead.

Bradford seemed to have scored a second goal in the 25th minute when Mills turned in Rankin's low cross, but it was belatedly ruled out for offside and, for all the excellence of McCall and Whalley in midfield, their nerves were beginning to fray when Rankin squandered two second-half chances.

BRADFORD CITY (4-4-2): G Walsh — A O'Brien, D Moore, A Widdowson (sub J Dwyer, 64 mins), L Todd — J Lawrence (sub J Rankin, 17 mins), S McCall, G Whalley, W Jacobs — R Blake, L Mills.  
WEST BROMWICH ALBION (4-5-1): P Whitehead — P Holmes, S Mowbray, D Burgess, J Van Eers, — M Ansel, M Bonnici (sub J Dwyer, 64 mins), R De Freitas, 60, R Sneekes, A Roberts — L Hughes.  
Referee: R Pearson



Mullins, left, turns away in celebration with Morrison, centre, after giving Crystal Palace the lead at Selhurst Park

Crystal Palace.....1  
Barnsley.....0

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

MANY Crystal Palace supporters travelled to Selhurst Park yesterday with one aim in mind: to heckle Mark Goldberg, the chairman, and voice their dismay at his troubled eight-month stewardship of the Nationwide League first division club. They left, a few disgruntled chants and taken protests later. In buoyant mood, having witnessed Palace's first victory since Boxing Day.

The expected mass calling for Goldberg's head did not materialise. The fans' anger may yet resurface, not to mention that of the players. They did not receive their monthly wages on Friday and will wait with trepidation until Wednesday, when Goldberg has promised to pay up from his personal funds. That the value of his shares in his computer company recently slumped from its £10 million "comfort zone" to little more than £2 million does not augur well.

Goldberg remained upbeat amid the discontent. "Maybe my biggest mistake was my

## Mullins gives Palace rebels cause to smile

ambition," he said. "I thought too big too quickly. I can understand why the fans are angry but it doesn't help to fight with me. It's the time to unite, not fight." Steve Coppell, once again called into the breach after the departure of Terry Venables, the Palace coach, six weeks ago, has seen it all before.

"I think it's part of the Palace fans' mentality," he said. "They love to suffer the torture. I'm just glad we didn't play brilliantly and win 5-0 because some of my players might have then been sold."

"We had all kinds of excuses — the strong wind, the state of the pitch, the chairman's problems and not being paid. I'm just happy we got a scrappy win. The players are philosophical about it all and, in the circumstances,

they did a thoroughly professional job."

Palace won in ugly fashion but perhaps were due a slice of good fortune. Barnsley, with one eye on their FA Cup quarter-final against Tottenham Hotspur on Saturday, had hardly contributed to an awful spectacle when they experienced a bizarre series of injuries shortly before half-time.

Moses was the first to go after colliding with Jones, his teammate, and sustaining a gashed head that required eight stitches. Appleby, his replacement, went seven minutes later with a suspected cracked pelvis — his fall possibly caused by the uneven surface — and Sheridan failed to reappear after the interval because of a dislocated jaw. Of the three, only Moses might recover to play Tottenham.

## Francis goes Continental via North Sea

Grimsby Town.....0  
Birmingham City.....3

By MARTIN WOODS

TREVOR FRANCIS introduced a little bit of Serie A artistry to the North Sea allomment that is Blundell Park when his Birmingham City side gave a masterclass in the art of defending to erode further the tantalising prospect of Gianluca Viali and company — grading Cleodhorpes in the FA Carling Premiership next season.

Every year, the Premiership entertains a club from the wrong side of the tracks before showing it the door. Alan Buckley's Grimsby Town would trump any of the disadvantages held by previous incumbents of the top division's trapdoor. Even among the candidates for a play-off place, Grimsby revel in the role of rank outsiders. However, if points were awarded for a manager's disarming honesty, automatic promotion would beckon. "I thought we were second best," Buckley said. "They deserved to beat us."

Beaten previously only twice at Blundell Park this season by sides, as Francis pointed out, just departed the Premiership, Grimsby are a formidable proposition at home. So Saturday's 3-0 verdict intimates the growing validity of Birmingham's claim on an automatic promotion spot. "They are the best I've seen for a while," Buckley said.

Birmingham's masterful defence, marshalled by Gary Rowett, laid the foundation for victory in the first half when they withstood everything Grimsby threw at them before taking the lead nine minutes before the break.

The goal was a reminder of how the Zimbabwe international Peter Ndlovu once illuminated the top flight. Taking possession just outside the right of the Grimsby box, the former Coventry City striker twisted and turned Lever and Smith before unleashing a shot through the crowded area into the right-hand corner of the net.

For all Grimsby's monopoly on possession, their neat, intricate passing game too often foundered on the rock of Rowett and Johnson.

If Grimsby's primary fault was over-elaboration, Birmingham derived their ascendancy from concentrated simplicity. O'Connor, the captain, and Hyde were instrumental in maintaining their side's advantage as Grimsby redoubled their efforts after the break. However, their progress was undermined as Lever did not reappear and Buckley was forced to deploy Groves, his captain, as a makeshift centre half.

When Hughes dribbled clean through the right side of the home defence before shooting straight at the goalkeeper, Davison, a quarter of an hour into the half, it confirmed City's growing sense of superiority. They had drawn Grims-

BOB TAYLOR equalled the all-time goalscoring record for the third division of English football with all five goals as Gillingham demolished Burnley 5-0 at Turf Moor. Taylor scored four times in the first half before adding his fifth three minutes after the break.

by's sting and 1-0 was not going to satisfy them.

Francis proved his theory that a spurned striker is a dangerous one five minutes before the end when the substitute, Dele Adebola, turned Smith outside the box before stroking the ball wide of the outstretched Davison. Rowett then rose above the home defence to head home, like a bullet, Hughes's corner. "We just don't throw a back four together," Francis said. "We do a lot of hard work on the training ground."

GRIMSBY TOWN (4-4-2): A Dawson — J McDermott, R Smith, M Lever (sub W Barlett, 60 mins), J Johnson — D Gordon, S Colclough (sub T Widdowson, 64), P O'Connor, K Black — L Ndlovu (sub D Clark, 64), L Ashurst.  
BIRMINGHAM CITY (4-4-2): K Poole — J Black, J Rowett, M Johnson, S Charlton (sub J McCarthy, 78), — M Gordon, M O'Connor, G Hyde, G Hughes — P Furlong (sub M Foster, 89), P Ndlovu (sub D Adebola, 71).  
Referee: D Lyons

## Houston leaves Wright on top

Bristol City.....0  
Ipswich Town.....1

By DAVID POWELL

JUST as surely as Stewart Houston is leaving Ipswich Town, so luck is deserting Bristol City. Bristol had not so much the lion's share of the chances as enough to feed an entire jungle, but Richard Wright, Ipswich's England Under-21 goalkeeper, proved unbeatable.

Ipswich moved up one place to third in the Nationwide League first division with their twentieth clean sheet. "How long have we been saying that Richard is the finest young keeper in the country and it was there to be seen again today?" George Burley, the Ipswich manager, observed.

Wright's best moment was a double block from Locke's drive and Alkin's follow-up, but he would not be persuaded

into admiring his own work. "In training every day we work on things like that," Wright, 21, said. He is sorry to lose Houston, whose last game as coach, this was before joining Tottenham Hotspur. "He has been a great influence on me," Wright said.

Houston is teaming up with George Graham, with whom he had a successful partnership at Arsenal. After the game, when Houston brought the players back out to warm down, they good-naturedly wrestled him to the ground. In return, he left them with a flea in their ear. "Ipswich have to be better on Tuesday against Watford," Houston said. "We cannot go on playing the way we did today."

John Gorman, assistant to the former England coach, Glenn Hoddle, raised speculation that he was to be Houston's successor by his presence in the stands. Asked the question, Burley did not deny it. A 55th-minute goal by Richard Naylor

gave Ipswich their thirteenth point from five matches and added to the bad luck being dealt out to Bristol City.

In a bleak February, they have lost to a disputed 89th-minute goal against Sunderland, enjoyed the better of the chances against Queens Park Rangers and Ipswich, without winning, had three points snatched away from them in the nineteenth minute against West Bromwich Albion, and lost two key players, Tistimeti and Bell, to injury for the rest of the season.

On Saturday, after the final whistle, a radio commentator suggested that City were not dead and buried yet. After two wins in 18 matches, they are almost being buried alive.

BRISTOL CITY (4-4-2): S Phillips — L Carey, M Shaw, V Secker, J Bennett — S Anderson, A Locke, R Edwards (sub M Hill, 70 mins), A Brown — A Alkin, S Torrey.  
IPSWICH TOWN (4-5-1): R Wright — M Tistimeti, A Mowbray, M Varney — P White (sub M Skidmore, 46), K Dyer, J Moore, J Haldard, J Clapham — R Naylor, M Harewood (sub R Poole, 62).  
Referee: S Knight

## Wigan maintain promotion drive

Macclesfield Town.....0  
Wigan Athletic.....1

By A CORRESPONDENT

GIANT strides have been taken by Macclesfield Town over these past two seasons but a small step backwards seems inevitable now after their latest home defeat that leaves them rooted at the foot of the Nationwide League second division.

Even the Macclesfield faithful, who have followed the club from the Conference to their present status, appeared to accept that the chill wind blowing across the tiny South Cheshire ground was an ill omen. Lack of money and a rise to prominence that has come too quickly was the general opinion.

Despite their position and the state of the Moss Rose pitch, Sammy Mellroy, the Macclesfield manager, remained pragmatic. "The pitch is a disgrace but it's the same for both sides," he said. His task is now to lift his team for the home derby match with Stoke City, another team in poor form, tomorrow.

Macclesfield's performance in the first half was desperate, but the goal by Wigan Athletic that decided the contest was derived from cruel luck.

David Lee's sixth-minute floating cross from the right

wing gained altitude and speed on the stiff north-easterly and eluded Ryan Price's frantic efforts to backpedal in time to make the save.

Although the home side rallied after half-time, by then Wigan's defensive lines, expertly shored up by Colin Greenall, their centre back, were well established.

Wigan have now lost just two of their past 21 matches. Financed by David Whelan, the chairman of JJB Sports, they will open next season in a new £30 million stadium and it may yet be a debut in the first division.

If that target is to be attained, Simon Haworth, Wigan's record signing, will surely need to be fully fit to provide impetus to a promotion drive.

He joined colleagues who had not played on Saturday for a gentle jog around the pitch after the match. Since Haworth, formerly of Coventry City, signed for £600,000 last October, he has been troubled by hamstring problems. Ray Mathias, the Wigan manager, can afford not to rush his return.

MACCLESFIELD TOWN (4-4-2): R Price — S Hibbert, S Payne, S Soke, J Ingram — A Bailey (sub D Berbery, 60 mins), S Sackerson, N Sores (sub G Tomlinson, 60), S Davies (sub S Wood, 54) — J Askey, P Mead.

WIGAN ATHLETIC (5-3-2): R Carroll — C Greenall, P McGibbon, C O'Connor, S Barker, R Sharp — D Lee, P Rogers, M O'Neil — S Barker, A Laddell.  
Referee: J Kirby

## Sombre Southend learn facts of life

Cambridge United.....3  
Southend United.....0

By ANDY STEPHENS

SOUTHEND United provided proof at the Abbey Stadium on Saturday that statistics are like a bikini. What they reveal is suggestive, but what they conceal is vital. Alvin Martin's side won more corners than Cambridge United, had as many shots on target as them, twice hit the woodwork and created the easiest goalscoring opportunity of the afternoon — yet were still soundly beaten.

Cambridge, inspired by those invisible virtues of spirit and self-belief, were good value for their success. They displayed a much more acute killer instinct and, aided by two goals from John Taylor, won comfortably to stay on course for promotion from the Nationwide League third division.

Southend should have taken the lead in the 42nd minute, when Unger found himself with only the goalkeeper to beat. He shot feebly wide, though, and his distress was multiplied on the stroke of half-time when Taylor chested down a pass from Martin Butler and hit a 25-yard left-foot volley that flew inside the far post.

The visiting team pressed hard for an equaliser in the

second half, but Cambridge were not exactly resting on their laurels and it came as no surprise when Butler, the man of the match, doubled their advantage in the 74th minute. Five minutes later Taylor, in splendid isolation, chipped the advancing Margeson to complete the scoring.

This victory leaves Cambridge one point behind Cardiff City, the leaders, with the luxury of a game in hand. However, the word promotion is best whispered in the vicinity of Roy McFarland, their manager. "We are still a million miles from the second division," he said. "I believe in the old Liverpool adage of the season not starting until Easter — when you know exactly what you've got to do."

In contrast, Southend, relegated for the past two seasons, languish in eighth place. It seems remarkable that it was only three years ago that they were more than holding their own in the first division — winning 3-0 away to Charlton Athletic and doing the double over Leicester City. Those statistics take some swallowing these days.

CAMBRIDGE UNITED (4-4-2): Aven Housden — S Cheney, A Duncan, M Joseph, J Campbell — N Martins, P Wardlaw, J Gormley (sub M Ford, 60 mins), J Laidlaw — J Taylor (sub R Walker, 67), M Dyer.  
SOUTHEND UNITED (5-3-2): M Margeson — S Bunt, M Bosc, B Hunter, R Newman, S Coleman (sub R Farnsworth, 73) — K Maher, L Unger, S Houghton — S Carter, M Pugh (sub A Burns, 73).  
Referee: D Ork

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# Timid BBC finally loses its nerve on match point

**S**o you decide to put money into a tennis tournament that contains 30 players whose bankability is distinctly hazy, but it also has Tim and Greg. And certainly both are splendid players and splendid chaps and, in this country, most hugely watchable. They are cast-iron box-office success. But neither of them is a stone-cold certainty to make the final, or even the semi-final, the big weekend days of your tournament.

So what do you do? It is the most anguishing thing for anyone involved in the business of sport. Sport is attractive because it is ultimately unpredictable. Good business practice is all about the ability to

predict, to see around the next corner. That is how you get ahead of the game.

In other words, sport makes money because its unpredictability is so marketable. But it is hard to cope with as a business, because you can't predict it. This is a simple paradox that lies at the heart of sport biz.

Television is an aspect of sport biz, and a very important one. The BBC bought up the week's big tennis event, which seemed to be held in a disused Toys R Us warehouse in Battersea Park. It had Tim and Greg on home soil, so it was an obviously good idea to televise it. But what if they don't reach the final? The BBC invested money in the tourna-

ment, but not faith. They feared the unpredictability too much. In short, they botched it.

This robustly tinorous approach seemed to be well and truly justified when Tim Henman went out in the first round. This is precisely the sort of result that has sport's money men screaming in anguish. You can supply burgers on demand and a burger is always a burger, but sport has a will of its own. You never know what you are going to get. You never have control of your own product. Tim's out? Well, that's sports biz.

It's great for mere punters, of course. Who is around the next corner? It is absolutely great, not knowing. Every time we go to a match or



SIMON BARNES

PROGRAMME NOTES

switch on a television with live sport before us, we might be about to watch the best match we have seen. We know we almost certainly won't. But that little question, that vast chasm of unpredictability, is what brings us back to sport again and again.

And the BBC knew that a live final with Tim or Greg — could God be wonderful this week and give us both! — was

going to be very watchable indeed. But with neither, it would all be the most crashing bore for anyone save serious tennis buffs. And so the BBC lost its nerve, scheduled a live rugby league match and gave us extended highlights.

All right, the thing was live on BBC Choice, but most of us haven't got that yet. And Greg Rusedski made the final, which made it a mainstream

sport happening. And the BBC had it, but they didn't put it out; at least they didn't put it out live on *Sunday Grandstand*.

Instead, we had highlights two hours late. We missed 24 games altogether. From the way the package was put together, you could effortlessly predict what was happening and which way the games were going to go. This was the case until well into the third set. I couldn't get my mind on the case until it was 3-3 in the last.

It was pretty poor television, then. A pity, because it seemed to be an absolute cracker of a match. The BBC couldn't have known that. They couldn't have predicted with 100 per

cent certainty that Greg would make the final and that it would be a better. So they played cautious.

It was a horrible decision to have to make, but the fact of the matter is that the Beeb got it wrong. Rusedski lost out in a hectic and splendid third set against Richard Krajcek, despite one of the most outrageous pieces of gamesmanship — in the strict Poterian sense of the term — seen on television for some time. It was great stuff.

I sometimes hear people moaning about Greg and Tim: they don't win every tournament they play in, they have been disappointing, neither has won a grand-slam event, they are maddeningly incon-

sistent. They are all too British — even Greg. But hey, chaps. We have two Brits in the top ten and absolutely none busting a gut to take their places. Let us just enjoy these two while we have them.

Greg and Tim are living national treasures and the way the two are inextricably linked adds an extra dimension to it all. Their rivalry is a perpetual stimulus to each, one player waxing as the other wanes, until the balance tips back the other way again. We should all revel in this odd pair and do everything we can to enjoy them. That includes those who bring us sporting television. Brings us all the Tim and Greg you can. It's not as if they'll be around for ever.

## That's my ball, and I'm taking it home



Ball and scrawl: Truss receives her illegibly signed memento from Nigel Gibbs of Watford, while (right) her fluorescent, sponsored version, after successfully avoiding the net, is caught unawares as Howe of Swindon wallops in the winner

**B**eing a football sponsor has never appealed to me particularly. Perhaps it is the cynic in me, but whenever I notice in the match programme that Dean Gammit's kit is generously sponsored by "Frankie and Alan" a frisson tickles my spine. Such naive, unquestioning selflessness. I have this persistent image, you see, of those poor saps Frankie and Alan answering the door one Saturday morning mid-season to find all Dean Gammit's laundry in a big basket on the step.

"You're the kit people, right? I'll be back for it this afternoon," says the delivery man. "No starch in the shirts."

Thus, when I was asked to be honorary match ball sponsor for Watford v Swindon Town on Friday, I initially hedged a bit. I assumed there was a catch. But no, said the nice woman from Watford on the phone. I had won the deal fair and square in a business card draw. It was worth £400, and I could attend the match with three friends, have dinner in the restaurant (wine extra) and take home

the match ball, signed by the players. Wow. To take home the very ball used in the match; have a little display cabinet built; instal a spotlight. People would say I was "deeply" sad, wouldn't they? Which is, of course, in football terms, the highest compliment you can pay.

However, there certainly was a catch. It was that you can't get to Watford on the M25 on a Friday night unless you set out the night before. So instead of treating your friends to a free leisurely dinner at Vicarage Road, you make them sit in rainy traffic jams and watch the hours tick by. You then arrive at the ground ten minutes before kick-off in a heightened emotional state, ravenous with hunger, and more than ready to shoot the inevitable obstructive jobs with a walkie-talkie who won't let you park your car.

But there was an unexpected benefit to this anguish. A plus side to being late and angry and frustrated. It was that although the jobs were naturally out in force (Elton John himself was once denied a parking space at War-

ford), I discovered, after nearly three years in this grindingly unhelpful football business, a glorious open-sesame. "I must get through, I'm the match ball sponsor," I announced. And astonishingly, it worked.

To someone who has never before persuaded a stadium steward to use the tiniest amount of initiative on her behalf, here was a revelation. Someone let me park my car; someone else helped us scot through the wrong stand, rather than go right round the stadium to another entrance. It was unbelievable.

Forget being from *The Times*, incidentally: in taking the logical path from A to B at a sporting event, full accreditation and urgent professional necessity cut no ice whatever. In my desperation at the World Cup last year, where I spent five weeks battering my head against bolted doors, I finally memorised the French for "Let me through with this plasma" — a last-ditch ruse that would, of course, have required me to fill plastic bags with pins of my own blood, but on balance would

**LYNNE TRUSS**



definitely have been worth it. Anyway, we got in finally, puff, pant. Rain was falling on the perfect pitch: just under 9,000 people had turned out, the remainder of the usual crowd staying home to

watch it on telly. We saw Watford not score at all, and Swindon score once. At half-time we ate the dinner (very good roast beef and veg) and I calmed down enough to get quite enthralled watching the ball quite itself (my ball) flying about. "Yellow for a night game, I suppose," I pointed out excitedly to my chums, handing them binoculars. "I can't see any signatures on it yet, though, can you?"

And the ball had a good game. Very active, quite nippy. Swindon's Bobby Howe caught it unawares in the closing minutes of the first half and scored with it, but otherwise it kept out of the net despite several close shaves. I started wondering whether it should have a pet name. Bobby Ball.

Benny Ball. I also worried what would be the consequences (as often occurs) the ball went out of play and another was thrown in. Which ball did I get? Then, scanning the programme, I discovered the poleaxing news that there was a second match ball sponsor, "Watford Council and the Wiseman Family". What? The Wisemans get the match ball as well? Good grief.

Nobody mentioned anything about a time share.

As is perhaps becoming clear, being match ball sponsor is not an ideal way to watch a football match. You get distracted by the wrong things, such as whether the ball is getting too wet for the signatures to stick. In the second half Swindon's George Ndah wore a worrying bandage on his right hand — would he still be able to sign? I was vaguely aware of the Hornets doing their best to equalise — buzz, buzz — but mainly I was concerned with tracking the adventures of Brucie Ball or Brian Ball (Billy Ball?), wondering how much to insure it for, and musing why there are so few auctions of match balls at Christie's.

**S**o you will be glad to know that Barry Ball is safely before me as I write, and of course it is not the real match ball at all. It's a white Watford FC ball (size 5) and I'm dead proud, though having spent two days studying the wild scribbles, I must report that an annotated match ball might be even better.

There's a signature that might be N. Wright, but I've squinted from all angles and it still looks more like Hilary. A few of the others are quite legible, but unfortunately bear no relation to the known personnel of the match. "A. Bally", for example, is very clear, but I'm sure I'd remember if he played. Meanwhile those lesser-known players "M. Lagst" and "Little Glen" have signed with admirable flourish.

Still, it was a new footie experience, and Watford were charming, and it was my own fault for underestimating the traffic. As I gaze now in wonderment at Bruno Ball, I must admit that my most treasured possession remains a book inscribed by Arthur Miller, but who knows? When Little Glen becomes the new Alan Shearer, I can rethink my priorities. Meanwhile, however, I shall practise my wonderful open-sesame without delay at Monet in the 20th Century.

"How dare you block the path of a match ball sponsor?" is clearly always worth a go. And let's be honest, it's a lot less drastic than opening a vein.

## SPORTS LETTERS

Sports letters may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5211. They should include a daytime telephone number.

E-mail, including a postal address and daytime telephone number, should be sent to: [sport.letters@the-times.co.uk](mailto:sport.letters@the-times.co.uk)

### No excuses for Johnson

From Mr S Kyle

Sir, I disagree with Alasdair Reid (report, February 22). It is not a matter of changing the rules to allow punishment of Martin Johnson for stamping. It is time for the England selectors to stand up and be counted.

Martin Johnson cynically and cold-bloodedly stamped on John Leslie, while he lay unable to defend himself in the bottom of a ruck at Twickenham.

There was no element of mitigation, no heat of the moment, not even a suspicion of Leslie bending the rules a bit and putting himself at risk.

I looked back over a recording of the incident several times. Johnson approached the ruck from a distance, with everything in clear view, with plenty of time to assess the situation.

His body angle is clearly shown by the photograph reproduced in the paper. His feet are in front of his body. He is not driving into the ruck. His feet are in front of his body weight for one purpose, to stamp on his opponent's face or neck.

What message does it send to the players at every level if the England selectors continue to condone and reward such behaviour, by selecting this player?

Alasdair Reid states the law is as ass as far as violent conduct is concerned. The selectors are not obliged to

### Percentage golfers make the game boring

From Mr H.E. Paice

Sir, John Hopkins (Strokeplay) no match for head-to-head, February 22 highlighted much of what I believe is causing so-called "big golf" to lose its attraction. To many of us ardent golfers and watchers of the game, whether live or on television, the "percentage" approach of the majority of players is boring.

As stated by Hopkins, a mistake or two may be costly, in every sense of the word, under strokeplay conditions, so we are then lumbered with the unending misery of putt-stalking, grass-throwing etc. ad nauseum — far less

prove themselves of similar pedigree.

S KYLE, 11 Beaconsfield Place, Aberdeen.

From Mr Aadel Kardooni Sir, as a friend and former colleague of Martin Johnson's at Leicester, I found Simon Barnes' Midweek View (February 24) offensive. Simon Barnes builds a picture of Martin being a prehistoric man, aggressive and lacking in intelligence. At the same time, he points out that he has never met Martin. I am sure that if he had researched his subject he would have found that Martin is intelligent with an engaging disposition.

Although I am not condoning Martin's stamping on John Leslie, he is a hard and

physical man who plays his rugby in the same way. At the same time Martin is not a so-called "dirty player" who looks to prowl rugby games to hand out his form of retribution. Yours sincerely, AADEL KARDOONI, 100 Piccadilly, London W1.

From Mr Rob Edgerton Sir, in his Calcutta Cup preview (February 20), Michael Lynagh said England needed someone with "the build of Dallaglio, the pace of Guscott and excellent ball-handling skills". There is such a man playing rugby in England — unfortunately, it's the wrong code.

Andrew Farrell fits this description to a tee, as well as being a very accurate kicker. If

important in matchplay — as is the weather. Television commentators take great pride in "calling the shot". Why? Because they know the percentage play and are rarely surprised. I don't want to hear their snuggles, I'd much rather they speculated — or, shall we say, gambled on getting it right!

Surely a format can be devised to satisfy all interests? Yours faithfully, H.E. PAICE, 19 Ravenswood Avenue, West Wickham, Kent.

only he along with players such as Connolly, Radlinski, Robinson and Newlove, were available in the back line for Clive Woodward. Yours sincerely, ROB EDGEKOTON, Cathedral Court, University of Surrey, Guildford, Surrey.

Lordly confusion

From Mr Denis Franzini Sir, I have made an application to MCC for tickets for a Test match to be played at Lord's in July. I have noted that the Regulations of MCC include "No ... confusion of any kind is permitted in any part of the ground". MCC further reserves the right to remove from the ground any

### Blair's turn to play fair

From Mr Ivor Hall

Sir, there is not a similarity between the match recently played between Arsenal and Sheffield United and the recent election of the leader of the Welsh assembly? Arsenal, whose actions in the first match were considered to be not in the interest of sportsmanship, offered a rematch — that was applauded by all.

In Wales, Tony Blair changed the electoral system that voted for Welsh leader of the Labour Party to suit his own ends, and his "puppet" duly won a hollow victory. Would it not be in the interest of fair play, and the credibility of the Prime Minister, to return this election on a level playing field by giving every

person who refuses to comply with the Regulations. In view of the confusion caused at the England v Sri Lanka one-day international in Australia on January 23 (the "calling" of Muralitharan for "throwing") does the definition of "any person" extend to the umpires? Yours faithfully, DENIS FRANZINI, 10 Courtfield Mews, London SW5.

member of the trade unions an individual vote? Yours faithfully, IVOR HALL, 29 Erskine Hill, Hampstead Garden Suburb, London NW11.

From Mr Brian Kain Sir, Now that justice has been seen to be done with Arsenal's FA Cup victory over Sheffield United, should we now not reconsider the fair play "rule"?

The incident in a United match resulting from a United player putting the ball into touch because a team-mate was hurt. Surely it should be the prerogative of the opposing team to make the gesture, ensuring that no time is wasted when players feign injury? Yours faithfully, BRIAN B. KAIN, Stumbleton, The Ford, Little Hadham, Herts SG11 2AY.

From Mr Giles Lyon Sir, In light of Arsène Wenger's refusal to accept Marc Overmars' "winning" goal in the FA Cup tie with Sheffield United, does this mean that players would be able to retract "goals" if they thought they were unfair, undeserved or just felt bad about scoring? Yours faithfully, GILES LYON, 150a Harbord Street, London SW6.

### This week in THE TIMES



Tomorrow Oxford aim to stem the flood of Cambridge victories in the Boat Race next month. Mike Rosewell sizes up the crews who will battle it out on the Thames.

Wednesday Colin Jackson assesses his chances of striking gold in the world indoor athletics championships in Japan.

Thursday Is the European Cup still in Manchester United's sights after their quarter-final tie with Internazionale?

Friday The Formula One wheels are turning in Australia for the opening grand prix of the season. Kevin Eason reports from Melbourne.

Saturday Football Saturday: the FA Cup quarter-finals in prospect plus top columnists Gary Neville and Robert Elms.

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## BY DAVID HANDS

Reference: G. Hughes (Manchester)

Tuigamala, right, of Newcastle, who scored two tries, powers through the Saracens defence during his side's Tedley's Bitter Cup victory at Kingston Park yesterday

BY DAVID HANDS  
LIBRY CORRESPONDENT

**BY MARK SOUSTER**

defence, it was wasps who denied

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### Stransky ineligible

**Africa early this century. This**

Smiled in Lyons on Saturday.

ROBERT C. WHITE (Gloucestershire)

**By MARK SOUSTER**

Referee: S Lander (Liverpool)

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By MARK BALDWIN

quenchable spirit continues to

of 101 is garbled perfectly. **Harold:**

अन्य (Others):

**By ALAN PEAREY**

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

1. **WORLD BANK DATA**

BY GERALD DAVIES

...advantages on their o

0- Cup down - 30



Indiscipline of Johnson turns tie on its head

Silk Cut Challenge Cup: Veteran Great Britain stand-off orchestrates Leeds victory

St Helens trampled underfoot by Powell

Leeds Rhinos.....24  
St Helens.....16

By Christopher Irvine

IN 15 years of rugby league, Daryl Powell has only been to Wembley with Great Britain. Like everyone else associated with Leeds Rhinos, the veteran stand-off half, who again made a mockery of his troublesome feet as St Helens went the way of Wigan Warriors at Headingley on Saturday, is taking nothing for granted.

The fact that he had not required a painkilling injection, as Leeds maintained their nerve and discipline to reach the Silk Cut Challenge Cup quarter-finals, was a bonus. At 33, Leeds would be advised to wrap Powell in cotton wool. "There's a chip and a spur growing on a bone in my foot, so I've a problem. I always thought once I was past 32, I'd just take it year by year," he said.

Now that Tony Kemp and Graham Holroyd have left, Leeds need Powell fit and in his present form. Karl Pratt, Powell's junior by 15 years, was bought from Featherstone Rovers as an outstand-

ing stand-off prospect. In the meantime, the play of beginning there with Powell and pushing Jesty Harris up from full back later in games continues to work nicely.

Graham Murray, the Leeds coach, is an admirer. "You need your tough, experienced men to lead the way. Daryl was outstanding for the time he was on, both in attack and defence. Other guys feed off that," he said.

Powell, a confessed, long shot for the coaching position when Murray leaves for North Sydney in October, said: "The way Wigan got themselves as a dynasty in the game is what this club's aiming for." With only a Yorkshire Cup victory to speak of in the 21 years since they last lifted the Challenge Cup, Leeds have reckoned before that they have a winning blend and been disappointed.

This time they may be proved right, not simply because they have a pack that refuses to buckle, but because they can adapt their game. Whereas Wigan were run off their feet, St Helens invited an arm wrestle and flinched. Leeds were initially sucked in by niggly spoiling, but adjusted the way that they defend-



Blackmore brushes Martyn, of St Helens, aside during Leeds Rhinos' victory at Headingley on Saturday

ed, cleaned up the ticks and, significantly, conceded only two penalties in the second half, while St Helens sides are traditionally imbued yet surfaced fleetingly. Hanley's decision to drop Anthony Sullivan looked justified, as the wings were spare parts. One of the few times that Paul Newlove got the ball, he finished a superb move.

The errant forward trio of Davidson, Nickle and Mazurka would be advised to learn controlled aggression, which Ellery Hanley, the St Helens coach, once showed. The

uncompromising nature of Hanley's team was not so much in question as the flair, with which St Helens sides are traditionally imbued yet surfaced fleetingly. Hanley's decision to drop Anthony Sullivan looked justified, as the wings were spare parts. One of the few times that Paul Newlove got the ball, he finished a superb move.

Helens workrate, and the impetus of Jackson coming on at hooker for Leeds set in motion their opening try by Ryan Sheridan. The darting Sheridan was at the heart of their other try by Newton after Harris had kicked St Helens into submission. Atkinson pocketed a late consolation, but on the eve of a long JJB Super League campaign, the road ahead looks

rockier for Hanley than for his former club.

SCORERS: Leeds Rhinos: Tries: Sheridan, Newton, Goals: Harris (3), St Helens: Tries: Newlove, Atkinson, Goals: Long (4)

Wolves begin to justify bold optimism

Warrington Wolves.....34  
Halifax Blue Sox.....4

By Christopher Irvine

THERE is nothing like a cup run to inspire confidence, and with new backers and Peter Deakin, from Saracens, newly installed in the chief executive's seat, Warrington is a hub of optimism. And with justification after Warrington Wolves' victory yesterday.

The feel-good factor was confirmed by an impressive defeat of Halifax Blue Sox, for whom the first round of JJB Super League matches next weekend presents an early chance for revenge. Halifax were eliminated early from the Silk Cut Challenge Cup last year and reached the play-offs by finishing third in the league, but Warrington gave a clear indication of the stiffer competition this season.

More satisfying than tries by four of their back line and another by Roper, a centre converted to loose forward, was restricting Halifax to just two penalty goals by Holroyd. "That's the best defence since I've been here," Darryl van de Velde, the Warrington coach, said.

Halifax were only 10-4 behind and had been restored to their full complement with Mercer's re-emergence from the sin-bin, when they were caught offside in the 54th minute. Roper tapped to

himself on the Warrington 20-metre line and was out of sight by the time that the Blue Sox players realised what was happening. Warrington were inspired by the live-wire Briers at scrum half, while Nudley, the prop, was everywhere. With Farrar hugely influential in the rear-guard effort, Halifax never looked like adding to their points in the second half.

Three of Warrington's tries got the green light by the video referees, the first after five minutes when a charge down by McCurrie came under scrutiny in the build-up to a score by the 34-year-old Forster, the only survivor of Warrington's last Wembley final appearance, in 1990. Warrington could have paid for a clutch of missed chances in the first half, but with a strong wind at their backs in the second, they blew away a disjointed Halifax.

Hume's clever footwork enabled him to profit from spillages by Bloem and Gibson. Kobe-Love eased past Cardis to score beneath the posts, before Penny's late try was converted by Briers.

SCORERS: Warrington Wolves: Tries: Forster, Roper, Nudley, Kobe-Love, Penny, Goals: Briers (7), Halifax Blue Sox: Goals: Holroyd (2)

Salford storm through

Huddersfield Giants.....14  
Salford Reds.....22

By Peter Wilson

SALFORD Red's much-changed team still have their sights set on going one step further than a year ago when they reached the Silk Cut Challenge Cup semi-final.

They booked their quarter-final place against Castleford Tigers by holding off the spirited challenge of Huddersfield Giants and it was a credit to both sides that they were able to beat the elements - driving rain and a strong wind - to provide such an enthralling contest.

The long-anticipated battle of the scrum halves was edged by Martin Crompton, who scored one try and was behind much of the damage to the Huddersfield cause.

Not that blame for the Giants' defeat could be heaped on the shoulders of Bobby Goulding, his three-quarter rival, who never gave an inch in a gruelling struggle.

A penalty by Goulding put Huddersfield in front but Salford were the first to exploit the conditions when Steve Blakeley halsted a high kick that Paul Cook failed to gather, and Crompton was able to pounce for the opening try after 17 minutes.

Huddersfield hit back in almost identical circumstances. This time it was Goulding who launched a high kick. Bobby Thompson who failed to gather and Danny Arnold who went over for the try. Goulding's conversion, into the wind put the Giants in front, but their lead only lasted a couple of minutes before Gareth Casey crossed for the first of his two tries.

Facing a two-point deficit at the break, any optimism Huddersfield harboured was shattered five minutes into the second half, when a short kick from Crompton skidded across the wet surface and Casey timed his dive to perfection and touched down.

Jim Lenthian scored to keep the Giants in the hunt, but their chances disappeared three minutes before the end when Scott Martin crossed unchallenged for the score that took the Reds out of reach.

SCORERS: Huddersfield: Tries: Lenthian, Arnold, Goals: Goulding (3), Salford: Goals: Blakeley (3), Tries: Casey (2), Martin, Crompton

Bulls avoid Rhinos in draw for last eight

QUARTER-FINALS

London v Whitehaven  
Castleford v Salford  
Widnes v Leeds  
Bradford v Warrington  
□ Ties to be played weekend of March 13-14

LEEDS RHINOS and Bradford Bulls, the two favourites, were kept apart in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup quarter-final draw last night (Christopher Irvine writes). The revitalised Warrington Wolves were presented with a difficult tie away to Bradford on Sunday week and an early return to his former club for Peter Deakin, their new chief executive.

The other televised match, on the BBC the day before, is likely to be the other all-JJB Super League tie between Castleford Tigers, who eliminated York last Friday, and Salford Reds. Widnes hung on against Leigh yesterday to win 20-17 and earned home advantage once more against Leeds.

Whitehaven are the only other Northern Ford Premier-

ship side left in the competition after they beat Oldham 18-2. They face the longest trip in rugby league, from Cumbria, to face London Broncos at the Sloop Memorial Ground, Martin Offiah, who missed most of last season, scored London's only try as they survived a scare away at Hull Kingston Rovers in a grim 6-0 victory, which put them into the last eight for only the second time.

McNamara stands out

Wakefield Trinity Wildcats.....8  
Bradford Bulls.....28

By Martin Richards

STEVE McNAMARA, the Bradford Bulls captain, whose place is by no means guaranteed in the strongest line-up, played a pivotal role as they gained a bruising passage into the quarter-finals of the Challenge Cup yesterday. Expectations of a runaway win for Bradford were not realised, for the Belle Vue mud and a swirling wind helped close the gap in class.

Wakefield lived up to their new name. Wildcats, even after Bradford had opened up a 14-2 lead after 21 minutes. Henry Paul put Bradford ahead when he picked up a loose ball to score wide out before Stuart Fielden, an impressive young forward,

crossed unopposed after McNamara's sweetly-timed pass had sucked in the Wakefield cover.

Wakefield, anxious to dispel fears that they will be the whipping boys of Super League this season, dug deep and came up with a rousing try from their Australian stand-off, Shane Kenward, a minute into the second half after Michael Withers had knocked on straight from the kick-off.

Bradford were suddenly on the back foot and it took another intervention by McNamara to settle matters. He threw only the faintest of dummies but the defence opened up invitingly and the loose forward charged through for a 58th-minute try which took all the sting out of Wakefield's revival. James Lowe, the hooker, added a fourth try with ten minutes remaining.

Matthew Elliott, the Bradford coach, said: "It was an ugly match in ugly conditions and we didn't adapt well enough to the wind and the wet. But all credit to Wakefield who showed great character. But we didn't do the smart things very well today."

Bradford's scrum half, Paul Deacon, retired at half-time with a leg injury after landing three kicks at goal and Paul also received an injury, which forced him to leave the field in the second half.

SCORERS: Wakefield: Tries: Kenward, Goals: Hodgson (3), Bradford Bulls: Tries: H Paul, Fielden, McNamara, Lowe, Goals: Deacon (3), McNamara (2), Wakefield Trinity Wildcats: A Hodgson, I Stoe, A Bunker, A Coughran, N Law, S Kenward, G Tomkinson, F Brierley, R Southey, A Fisher, P Frost, W Pritchard, J Kemp, Substitutes: D March, W McDonald, F Walker, G Law, BRADFORD BULLS: M Waters, T Vickers, D Pritchard, S Hayer, N McAlroy, H Paul, P Deacon, B McDermott, J Lowe, S Fielden, B Dwyer, D Boyle, S McManis, Substitutes: N Pinner, J Donaghy, M Forshaw, W Jowett, Referee: S Nicholson (Whitehaven)

Bromsgrove win in usual style

By John Goodbody

THERE is little disputing the recent dominance of Bromsgrove at under-18 girls' hockey. Yesterday, in the rain and gusts of Milton Keynes, they took the British Aerospace national title for the third successive year with a performance of consummate maturity.

Last year they beat the other four regional winners in the finals by scoring 18 goals and conceding none with a team that included Lucilla Wright, the full England international. This season, they have Sally Walton and Jane Allen, who have both represented England schools, as well as three German age-group internationals who are studying at the Worcestershire school for a year.

The cumulative effect has been impressive. Last Wednesday they warmed up for this tournament by drawing 0-0 with Cambridge University, who were virtually at full strength. Already winners of the national under-18 indoor title this season, Bromsgrove had few evident weaknesses yesterday as they completed a unique double of national championships.

They successfully beat Arnold School, Blackpool, Wycombe High School, and King's Canterbury, all by 3-0. In the last game of the round they won 4-0 against Millfield, who earlier had been beaten 1-0 by Wycombe but had looked the most likely challengers to Bromsgrove.

Eight of the Bromsgrove goals were scored by the long-striding Walton, who plays as an advanced striker and who also had nerve misses with some deft reverse-stick shots. "Another day they would have

SPORT  
IN SCHOOLS

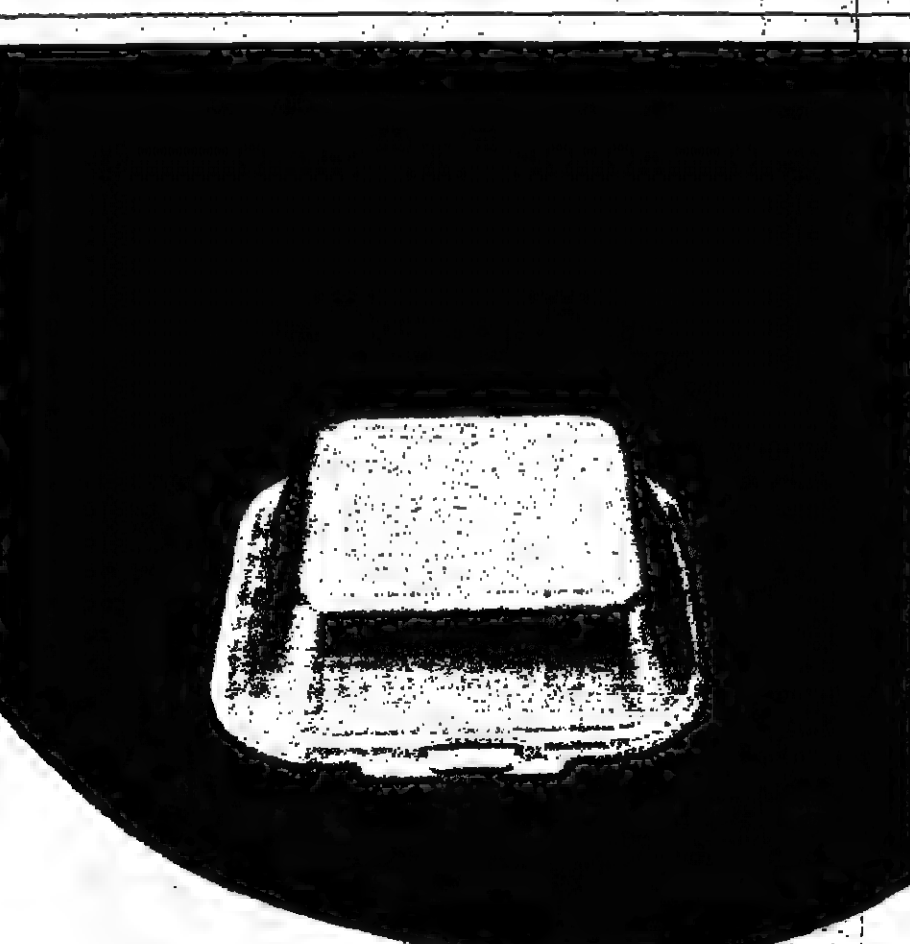
gone in," she said afterwards. "It was a real team performance from us but having the three Germans made it all possible."

The trio of Ulrike Patschkowski, Luisa Leisewitz and Laura Lembke gave an impetus to the team because of their physical presence and the difficulty opponents found in getting the ball away from them. They are part of a group of 28 Germans attending the independent school this year, although they do not receive any sports bursaries.

Caroline Ralph, the Bromsgrove team manager, said: "We got better and better as the day went on. The success of the under-18s has been the result of the girls playing together in the younger age groups and the results coming to fruition at senior level."

"We are almost there with the under-16s. The programme is coming through so that we have a concrete package at all age levels. It is a long-term process."

RESULTS: Bromsgrove School, Worcestershire 3 Arnold School, Blackpool 0, Millfield, Somerset 2 Wycombe HS, Buckinghamshire 1, Arnold 0 King's Canterbury 1, Wycombe 0 Bromsgrove 2, King's Millfield 1, Wycombe 0 Arnold 0, Bromsgrove 3 King's 0, Arnold 0 Millfield 1, King's 0, Wycombe 1, Millfield 0 Bromsgrove 4, Final placings: 1, Bromsgrove 12pts; 2, Wycombe 7, 3, Millfield 6; 4, King's 5; 5, Arnold 1



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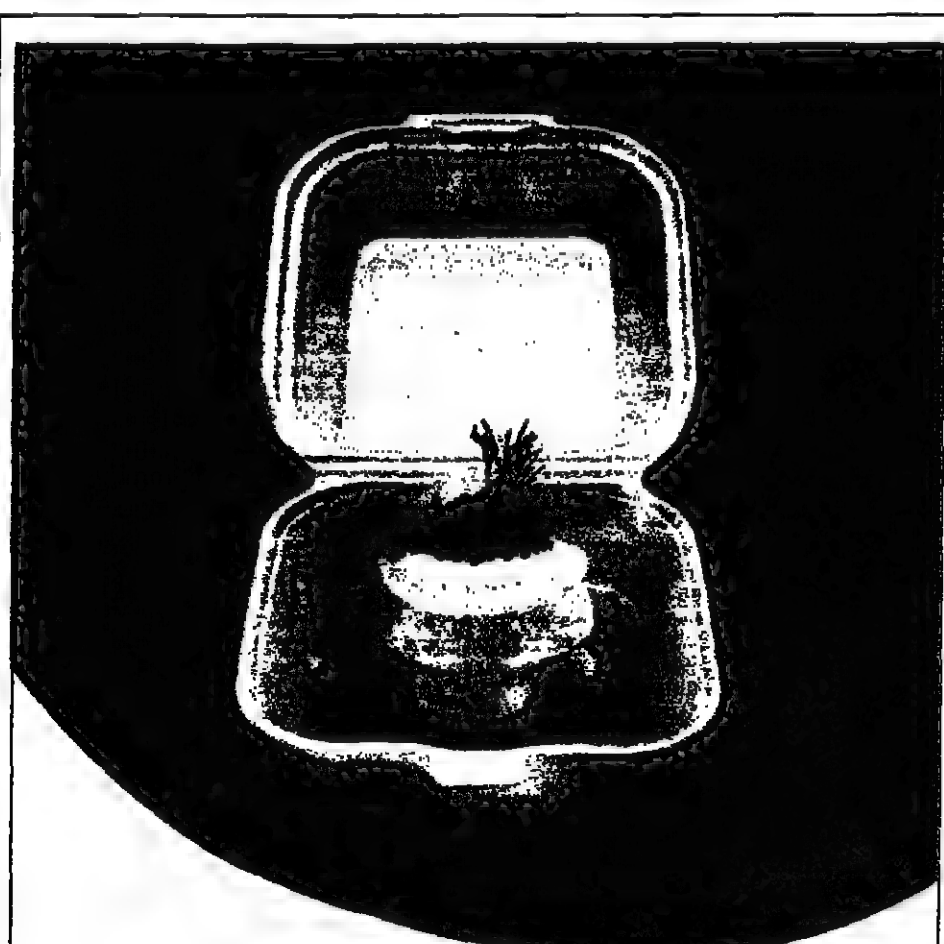
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# Chris McGrath on a former champion, smoothing over rough patches

## Dunwoody shows fighting spirit

FIVE years ago, Racing Post Chase day at Kempton produced no fewer than eight Cheltenham Festival winners. While there might well have been one or two trials on Saturday that signposted the way to profit in the Cotswolds — where the delirium commenced a fortnight tomorrow — perhaps the most significant test this year was passed on two legs rather than four.

Richard Dunwoody, who gave Dr Leunt an immaculate ride to win the Racing Post Chase, has rather given the im-



Dr Leunt and Dunwoody take control in the Racing Post Chase at Kempton on Saturday

pression in recent weeks that he is prey to some inhibition of body or soul.

Much the ugliest symptom had emerged at Ascot the previous Saturday, when a weighing-room scuffle with Mick Fitzgerald tarnished the gracious reputation of both men, merited equally in and out of the saddle.

They have evidently put their spat behind them and the temptation to dramatise the episode has been sensibly resisted by others, too. The stewards, for instance, turned a discreetly blind eye.

Between two such senior jockeys, it was a telling measure of the stresses of their per-

ous business. Sometimes, grievances forged in the heat of racecourse battle are most effectively doused by primitive means, to the superficial cost of hissing and steam.

Even so, the incident surely compromised Dunwoody's standing among his colleagues. Its larger context compounded concern about the former champion, whose talent is so justly treasured. An old arm injury was revived by a fall in January, and he has had one or two other nasty crash landings recently. He is heroically brave, make no mistake, with an unyielding intransigent attitude to pain. For whatever reason, however, he has

endured a thin time with winners of late, ending a barren sequence of 28 rides at Doncaster on Thursday.

Though he will resent any such inference, this recent lack of conviction could be attributable to two growing preoccupations.

First there is Florida Pearl, of whom Ireland has such

crushing expectations in the Top Cheltenham Gold Cup. This horse could provide ample incentive for Dunwoody, 35, to look forward to next season. On the other hand, disappointment might conceivably prompt him to wonder what lies beyond the other tumultuous junction in his career.

His second success on Saturday, the bumper, was his 83rd of the season and leaves him just 17 short of Peter Scudamore's all-time record for career wins.

Dunwoody has already revealed the business acumen to keep him profitably busy when he does choose to retire. For now, happily, he can legitimately claim to preserve both his princely talent and the hunger that sustains it. The broad smile that Dr Leunt restored to his face reflected his satisfaction at riding the biggest winner so far trained by Philip Hobbs. Dunwoody asserted his prerogative to the inside rail and always had Dr Leunt jumping slickly in the van, while conserving enough to fight off The Land Agent in the closing stages. Dr Leunt now returns to Cheltenham, probably for the Cathcart Chase.

### LEADERS OVER THE JUMPS

TRAINERS					JOCKEYS				
1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
119	71	51	37	22	A P McCoy	123	74	54	37
78	60	52	34	22	R Johnson	96	61	50	22
67	59	54	34	22	M A Fitzgerald	89	49	59	22
68	61	39	34	22	N Williamson	84	54	51	22
58	51	28	34	22	R Dunwoody	83	54	42	22
53	28	28	34	22	T J Murphy	58	38	32	22

### SATURDAY'S RESULTS

**Kempton Park**  
Colours: good to soft in places.  
2.00 (2m ch) 1. Super Tactica (A. Thornton) 2.1. 2. Kestrel (7.2). 3. Andromeda (6.1). 4. Lark (6.1). 5. Lark (6.1). 6. Lark (6.1). 7. Lark (6.1). 8. Lark (6.1). 9. Lark (6.1). 10. Lark (6.1). 11. Lark (6.1). 12. Lark (6.1). 13. Lark (6.1). 14. Lark (6.1). 15. Lark (6.1). 16. Lark (6.1). 17. Lark (6.1). 18. Lark (6.1). 19. Lark (6.1). 20. Lark (6.1). 21. Lark (6.1). 22. Lark (6.1). 23. Lark (6.1). 24. Lark (6.1). 25. Lark (6.1). 26. Lark (6.1). 27. Lark (6.1). 28. Lark (6.1). 29. Lark (6.1). 30. Lark (6.1). 31. Lark (6.1). 32. Lark (6.1). 33. Lark (6.1). 34. Lark (6.1). 35. Lark (6.1). 36. Lark (6.1). 37. Lark (6.1). 38. Lark (6.1). 39. Lark (6.1). 40. Lark (6.1). 41. Lark (6.1). 42. Lark (6.1). 43. Lark (6.1). 44. Lark (6.1). 45. Lark (6.1). 46. Lark (6.1). 47. Lark (6.1). 48. Lark (6.1). 49. Lark (6.1). 50. Lark (6.1). 51. Lark (6.1). 52. Lark (6.1). 53. Lark (6.1). 54. Lark (6.1). 55. Lark (6.1). 56. Lark (6.1). 57. Lark (6.1). 58. Lark (6.1). 59. Lark (6.1). 60. Lark (6.1). 61. 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# When there's more to fishing than fish

Brian Clarke finds that a watching brief on new waters can pay dividends

The motto of a club that I belong to is *Piscator non solum piscatur*. It more or less translates as "there is more to fishing than fish". Roderick Haig-Brown, the great English writer who lived in America, went further. He suggested that fishing might just be an excuse to be near rivers.

Anyone who has held a rod for a season or two will agree with the first. Last week, exploring a new piece of water that I will be fishing this year, I came close to believing the second. I had gone to get my bearings: to relate the plan on the map to the view from the bank; to dip myself into the sights and sounds; to drool just a little. So I took no rod.

It was a splodging walk. The river had been over its banks for weeks and had just slid back. Pools were winking from the meadows like scattered coins. The grass was laid flat as though by a wind. The debris of the flood was all around — trapped in trailing branches or left high and dry where the water had dropped it.

The first place I came to was a shallow bay. Bird tracks and animal tracks marked pathways around the margins. A sudden movement smudged my eye and I half-glanced fur. It crossed the ground between a couple of fallen branches and melted between them. It had been low and fluid, had been there and gone so quickly that I might have imagined it. A pity that I hadn't. A mink. Damn.

A little upstream, a willow had fallen over the water. It was massively tangled, so dense that it pushed the heavy water into the far bank. Beyond the tree's end, the river raced. Behind the tree in summer, there would be slow water. A crinkle on the surface would mark the divide. Fish would be able to lie in the slow water and dine on the food that the fast water dropped.

The crinkle would be an excellent place for chub, dace, roach, trout — you name it. Barbel might lie out in the current. There would be at least one pike in the calm behind the branch. It would lie there, cold as a mortuary slab, waiting for a victim, its fins turning and idling, its tail-edge crinkling, ready to move forward like an aimed shadow, ready



One to bank on: catching a prized predator will bring smiles, but sometimes just being near to a river may be enough to satisfy an angler

to gather itself for its ravaging rush.

Further upstream, I startled a snipe. A heron laboured overhead, tilted a little, bent its wings over curves of air and glided down them into the near middle-distance. The pennants of last year's sedges streamed in a non-existent wind. Ice in a puddle crunched underfoot.

I had been told about the Bailey bridge. It crossed the top of one of the beats that is reserved for trout fishing. The water slid under the bridge and widened into a great sweep of pebbles, rumpling and racing. In summer it would be shallow enough to wade. Sometimes, I had

**'There would be at least one pike behind the branch, lying cold as a mortuary slab, waiting for a victim'**

been told, great fish were taken from this stretch, mostly at last light.

I stood on the bridge and looked downstream. The world faded. I could feel the warmth of June and see the sun going low and the ripe-for-mating flies gauging the air. Broad backs would break the surface and rings ebb out. That will

be the wading line, if the bottom is good. The likely casting points would be there and there. I smiled. All nonsense, of course. When the river dropped, its character would change utterly and there would be no real telling where the fish would be. Still, I got two just by day-dreaming.

I turned downstream and

crossed to the carrier that has the haunches in the middle. A beer can turned in endless circles in a vortex behind one of the gates. An oink of Canada geese waited overhead. Two fallow deer, wearing their white hearts on their rumps, appeared from behind a bush and bounded away.

The carrier is trout-only, as well. It looked as though it was going to be early-season water with only the upper part holding fish when the river had dropped. I hoped that summer would prove me wrong, which would suit me fine. The fishing was going to be upstream fly only, which suited me dino.

To the mill. Another eventful walk, now through fine rain and a rising breeze. Snowdrops were out under an ageing oak. A heap of matted feathers told of disaster for something else: nature as red as ever in tooth and beak. A formation of ducks fledged downwind, like an arrowhead homing. A line of young willows marked a short reach of bank, their shoots so red that they made each tree glow. Close-up in the rain, every twig was threaded with half-moons of cut light.

The mill looked great and the mill-pools awesome. In one-direction there were swims that looked made for barbel. In the other, sitting like a garden gnome under a green umbrella, an old hand was leaning back in his chair, watching his float.

**H**e had fished this river for 40 years. It was good but not what it used to be. Dredging to reduce the flooding had ruined the bottom and now there weren't enough waterfleas to feed the little fish. Fewer little fish meant fewer big fish, he explained — but if I put in the hours I would get the results, he could promise me that. Definitely.

I took a look at the big bends upstream — at the Log Swim, at Blue Bridge Pool and at somewhere else — then paused under an ancient tree to look around. There was a brush of wings and a great bird suddenly broke cover above my head and waited noiselessly away. What a treat a barn owl so close that I could have touched it with a rod-end. I had a wonderful view of it, saw its dished eyes clearly, saw clearly the pale honey of its back before the bird showed its belly and instantly turned white.

I watched the owl out of sight then turned back to the car. I did not hurry. By the time I was into it and scrunching down the track, I was as relaxed and mellow as any day has left me. It had been a full day's fishing — almost — even without the rod. *Piscator non solum piscatur*. Just being near a river can be enough.

□ Brian Clarke's column appears on the first Monday of each month

## BOXING

### Dunne's talents shown on Holiday

By SRIKUMAR SEN  
BOXING CORRESPONDENT

COLIN DUNNE made new friends as he was finally given the exposure on television to prove his worth. The four million viewers who watched him on ITV on Saturday night cannot have failed to see what a crowd-pleaser the World Boxing Union lightweight champion is. Dunne took on Phillip Holiday, of South Africa, who many thought to be well above his class — and beat him out of sight.

Holiday was only able to impose his much-vaunted technical superiority in short bursts and had to keep moving forward in the hope of wiping out the points deficit. As a result, the bout moved to an exciting conclusion — with the crowd on its feet as Holiday tried to find a big punch and Dunne refused to give way.

After receiving a cut just below his hairline in the fifth round, Holiday seemed to lose his earlier sharpness and concentration as blood poured steadily down his face. The ring doctor said that the flow of blood was not getting in his eyes and so it would not have been proper to stop the contest. Dunne took full advantage.

The aim of Dunne's manager, Terry Toole, is to put get his boxer a contest that will make some money. John Hyland, the promoter, was hoping to make a match with Billy Scherer, the European champion. However, Mickey Duff, Scherer's manager, said that, as Scherer had a chance to challenge for the WBC title, Dunne would have to wait.

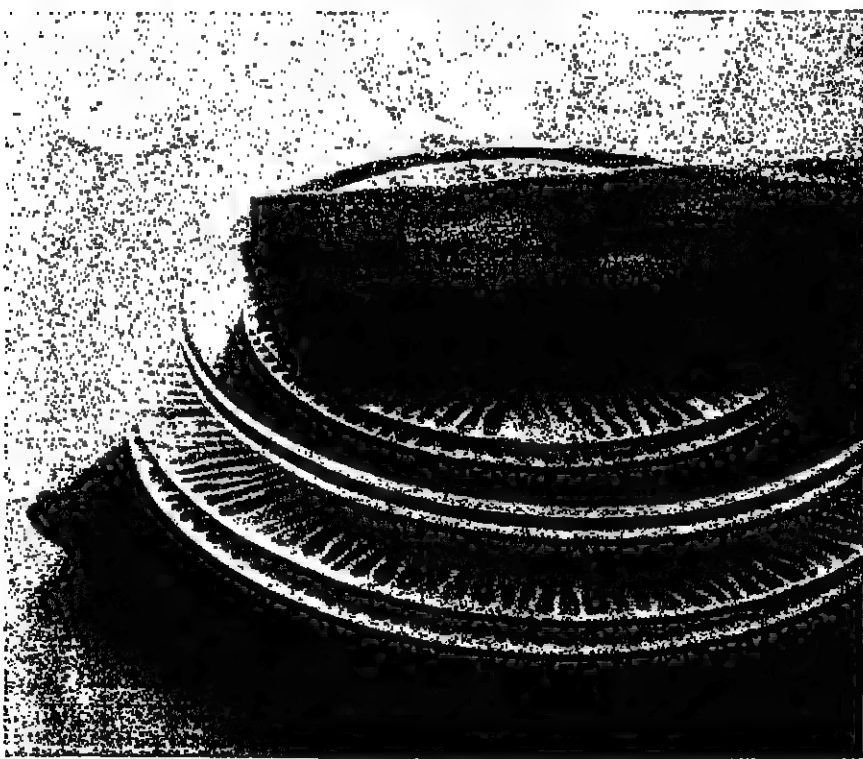
Referring to the cash Holiday sustained, and no doubt the fact that Scherer tends to cut easily, Duff parried Hyland's offer. "Dunne is dangerous with his head," he said. "With the world title fight in the offing for Scherer, it would be an unnecessary fight to take."

Oldham death, page 5

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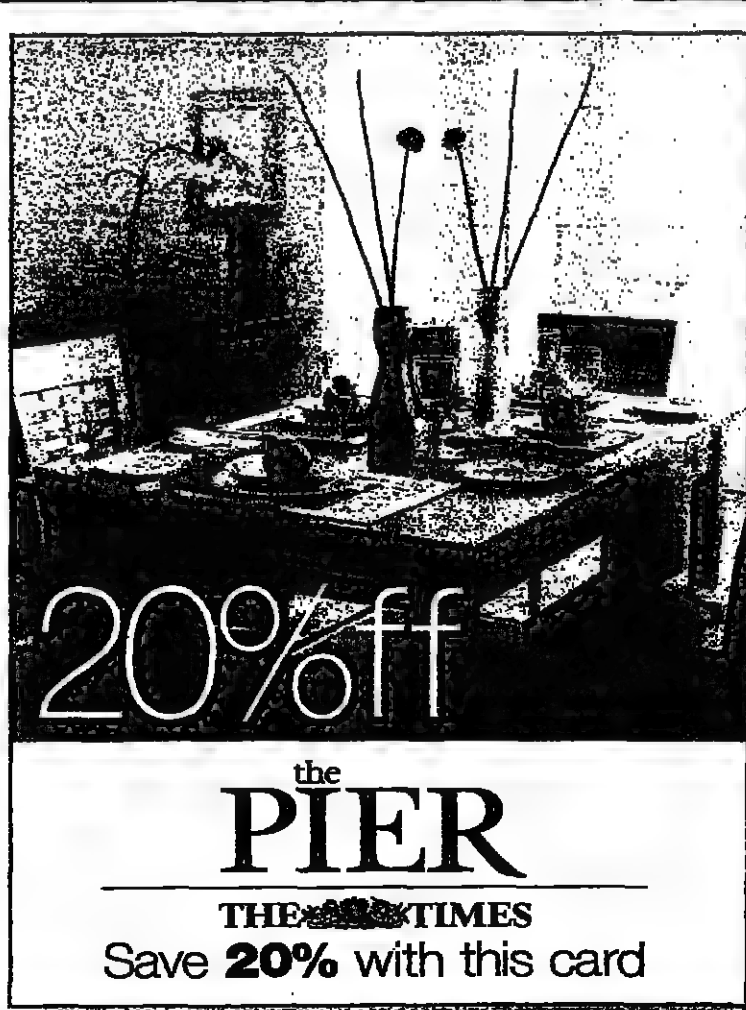
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CHANGING TIMES

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# Be it with flowers or hampers, pamper her

Family life has changed dramatically over the past century and will continue to do so into the next, but on the eve of the millennium the dream of the perfect mother continues to hover on the edges of our lives. Because the role of motherhood is such an emotive one it is easy to place it on a pedestal and find fault with mothers who are thought not to measure up.

Hardly a week goes by without mothers who are single, mothers who work, mothers who are too old and those who are too young coming in for some form of criticism. Even the celebration of Mother's Day, or Mothering Sunday, held on the fourth Sunday in Lent since the Middle Ages (this year it falls on March 14), was originally an onerous one. It was the day on which the congregations of daughter churches honoured the mother church by visiting it in processions, carrying banners. After the Reformation this solemn celebration was transferred to honour the mother of the family.

There are no banners now, but whether you celebrate Mother's Day by serving her breakfast in bed, with freshly baked croissants (frozen beforehand, then slightly heated), a new honey or jam pot as a keepsake and a spray of flowers, or whether you organise a surprise

## Susan MacDonald offers advice on what to buy for Mothering Sunday

trip to Venice for the weekend — a dream city for a much-loved mum — it is the honouring of her individual worth that counts.

Magazine articles abound with ideas on what to give. If she really has a sense of humour, there is a Swatch watch with the words "Dear mum, it's time to say thank you" there on the face.

Lovely though presents are, Mother's Day is not just about giving treats. It is also the day for letting her know how much she is valued and appreciated. Giving a complete fashion or facial makeover would be great, giving a new frying pan would not — unless it is one she would really love to have.

It is important to think seriously about what to buy, and to think ahead. Trying to order flowers the afternoon before Mother's Day can be a nightmare. Phone lines are often jammed and flower shops sold out.

Flowers Direct offers flowers not always available in this country, particularly at this time of the year, and Blooms By Post specialises in orchids.

Ordering is made easier by the number of Mother's Day flowers

and presents — such as hampers — available on the Internet.

If you live in or near East London, the Sunday morning Columbia Road flower market is not only a lovely place to stroll around, but it also provides a wonderful array of plants and cut flowers at market prices, and the street is lined with shops selling ceramic pots, garden and house ornaments and antique knickknacks.

Stylish transparent Perspex bowls and dishes can be filled with chocolates, nuts or fruit for the occasion and it is easy to find brands of bathroom toiletries that come in bottles so elegant that they just cannot be thrown away. There is also some beautiful costume jewellery around — this may be something she thinks about buying but never gets round to doing.

And if you find you are stuck with buying flowers at the petrol station on Sunday morning, purchase a couple of bunches in the same colour range and make them into one large bunch. The idea of the gift, whether large or small, is to pamper and bring pleasure.

The responsibility of being a mother can weigh heavy. After all,

it is not a nine-to-five job. There is no retirement age and the nagging feeling that it could be done better never goes away.

Nor does the sense of responsibility, although the role alters dramatically as toddlers progress to adults. However much heart-strings are tugged, mothers need to adapt.

The rules of motherhood aim impressively high. Mothers should be there for their children while allowing them to live their own lives, extend a love so great that they do not feel deprived but not so encompassing that they feel smothered.

Mothers should never interfere but always be aware of what is going on, so as to offer the right advice when needed. Children should be neither shown up nor put down. Mothers should dress neither frumpishly nor garishly and not draw attention to themselves when picking children up from school.

A mother can relax and be herself once her children grow up, but she should never slack off in her role. The need for love, comfort and a shoulder to lean on continues, and becomes even more complicated when children become parents and mothers become grandmothers — another role and yet another set of rules.



Mother's Day is not just about giving gifts, but letting her know how much she is appreciated

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## Chancery Division

## Law Report March 1 1999

## Queen's Bench Division

## Damages for breach of fiduciary duty

## Nationwide Building Society v Various Solicitors (No 3)

Before Mr Justice Blackburne  
[Judgment February 2]

The correct approach to equitable compensation for breach of fiduciary duty, except where the fiduciary had acted dishonestly or in bad faith, was to assess what actual loss had resulted from the breach, having regard to the scope of the duty broken.

The court could have regard to any inference which, on the evidence, could properly be drawn as to what would have happened if the fiduciary had performed his duty. Failing any such evidence, the beneficiary was entitled to be placed in the position he was in before the breach occurred. That assumed that the beneficiary could show that but for the breach of duty, he would not have acted in the way which had caused his loss.

Where, in order to establish a breach of fiduciary duty, it was necessary to find that the fiduciary was consciously disloyal to the beneficiary, the fiduciary was disabled from asserting that the beneficiary contributed to the loss which he suffered flowing from the breach.

Mr Justice Blackburne so held in a reserved judgment in the Chancery Division when considering 12 claims of the plaintiff, Nationwide Building Society, against 12 firms of solicitors retained by it, inter alia, to investigate and report on title for breach of common law duties, and, in some cases, breach of fiduciary duty.

The plaintiff made mortgage advances to 12 borrowers each of which was secured by a first charge over the borrower's property. The borrowers defaulted and on sale of the properties the price realised fell far short of the sum required to discharge the loan.

In each case, the solicitor retained by the plaintiff to investigate and report on title also acted for the borrower in question. The cases exhibited unusual features such as the existence of a sub-sale or an agreement by the vendor to

discharge the borrower's expenses of the transaction by varying the purchase price.

The plaintiff sued the solicitors claiming that in breach of duty they had failed to disclose those features which, if disclosed, would have led the plaintiff to withdraw its offer of advance.

The duties alleged included express duties under the terms of the retainers, implied duties including a duty to inform the plaintiff of any matters of which the solicitor was aware which a reasonably competent conveyancing solicitor would conclude might be relevant to the valuation of the property or some other aspect of the plaintiff's decision whether to lend and if so how much, and breach of fiduciary duties including the fiduciary's duty not to place himself in a position where his duties to his two principals conflicted.

The cases raised, inter alia, the question of the correct test for assessing equitable compensation where breach of fiduciary duty was established.

Mr Nicholas Patten, QC, Mr Timothy Higginson, Mr Ian Gatt, Mr Tom Leach and Mr Michael Eysart, for Nationwide Building Society, QC, Mr Jonathan Simpkins, Mr Francis Bacon, Mr William Flenley, Mr Tony Oakley and Mr Spike Charlwood for the defendants.

MR JUSTICE BLACKBURNE said that one of the issues which had arisen was whether, where breach of fiduciary duty was alleged, the "what if" approach to assessing damages at common law was in point, that is, whether, assuming causation in the sense of a causal connection between breach and loss had been shown, it was relevant to establish what course of action the plaintiff would have followed if the solicitor had carried out his duty.

His Lordship extensively reviewed the authorities, including *London Loan and Savings Company v. Ash* (1893) 15 Q.B. 693 and *Tanger Holdings Ltd v. Redfern (a firm)* (1996) AC 421.

His Lordship said that the correct approach to equitable compensation for breach of fiduciary duty, except where the fiduciary had acted dishonestly or in bad faith, was to assess what actual loss had resulted from the breach, having regard to the scope of the duty broken. The court could have regard to any inference which, on the evidence, could properly be drawn as to what would have happened if the fiduciary had performed his duty.

Failing any such evidence, the beneficiary was entitled to be placed in the position he was in before the breach occurred. That assumed that the beneficiary could show that but for the breach of duty, the beneficiary would not have acted in the way which had caused his loss.

The view that *Brickenden* did not prevent a fiduciary from providing what the client beneficiary would have done if there had been no breach of fiduciary duty now appeared to prevail in the courts of New Zealand and Canada.

Those courts in recent cases had interpreted *Brickenden* to mean that, once breach of fiduciary duty was established through the failure of the fiduciary to disclose material facts to the beneficiary, it was not open to the court to speculate on the course the beneficiary would have taken had the duty been discharged.

It was nevertheless open to the fiduciary, on whom the onus lay, to show if he could, what the beneficiary would have done if there had been no breach of fiduciary duty and whether, therefore, the beneficiary had suffered any and if so what loss which should be compensated.

His Lordship said that by the procedure he was enabled to obtain a more balanced view of the way the plaintiff operated than if he had tried a single trial only.

In particular, his Lordship was better able to assess, partly by virtue of the plaintiff's extensive discovery in the action, what the plaintiff's response should have been to the information supplied to it by the defendant solicitors (relevant to contributory negligence) and how it would have reacted to the disclosures which it said the defendant solicitors should have made to it (relevant to causation).

His Lordship found levels of contributory negligence by the plaintiff in many cases which reduced the damages to which it was entitled by amounts ranging between 20 per cent and 90 per cent of the sums claimed.

Factors his Lordship took into account in making those findings included failing to heed warnings issued by the industry regulator concerning the need to be prudent about lending, placing too much emphasis on the value of the underlying security and too little on the borrower's character, lending at excessively high loan to value percentages and failing to spell out its reporting needs in its printed instructions to solicitors.

Solicitors: Barges Salomon, Bristol; Barlow Lyde & Gilbert.

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Solicitors: Barges Salomon, Bristol; Barlow Lyde & Gilbert.

## Enforcing award in foreign arbitration

## Minmetals Germany GmbH v Ferro Steel Ltd

Before Mr Justice Colman  
[Judgment January 20]

By agreeing the place of a foreign arbitration, a party not only agreed to submit all contractual disputes to arbitration but also agreed that the conduct of the arbitration should be subject to the supervisory jurisdiction of the courts of that place.

Mr Justice Colman so held in the Queen's Bench Division when upholding the order of Mr Justice Cresswell made on January 12, 1998, under section 101 of the Arbitration Act 1996, giving leave to Minmetals Germany GmbH to enforce against Ferro Steel Ltd an award dated September 29, 1995 in an initial arbitration, and an award dated March 20, 1997 in the resumed arbitration, conducted under the auspices of the China International Economic Trade Arbitration Commission, of Beijing.

Mr Duncan Mathews for Minmetals, Mr Michael Swainston for Ferro.

MR JUSTICE COLMAN said it was common ground that the awards were enforceable in England under the Arbitration Act 1975 which gave effect to the New York Convention on the Recognition of Foreign Arbitral Awards 1958: see Fifth Report of the International Law Commission 161 (Cmd 151).

Nor was it disputed by Ferro that unless it could persuade the Beijing court to order a retrial and, as a result, the Beijing court ordered revocation, the awards were, as they stood, final and enforceable under Chinese law.

Section 102(1) and (2) of the Arbitration Act 1996 expressly provided that such awards must be enforced unless the party against whom enforcement was sought proved that the case fell within one of the exceptions in subsection (2).

With regard to the court's power under section 103 to decline to enforce or to recognise an award on the grounds of inarbitrability of the subject matter or of enforcement being contrary to public policy, whereas it was always open to the court to take an illegality point of its own volition, if a respondent to enforcement wished to rely on matters within subsection (2), the burden of making good the objection to enforcement clearly rested on that party.

Article 53 of the arbitration commission rules was clearly and expressly applicable to the conduct of arbitrators in making their award. His Lordship was in no doubt that in making the first award they had not acted in accordance with international practices and the principles of fairness and reasonableness.

However, the position following the Beijing court's order for a resumed hearing was that the evidence relied on by the arbitrators was open to challenge by means of a request for sight of the award and of the evidence on which it was based.

Since no such challenge was advanced, Ferro had waived its right to object to the continuing omission of the arbitrators to disclose the award under article 45 of the rules.

The public policy issue arose in relation to the New York Convention award made pursuant to a Chinese agreed arbitral authority, in international commerce, a party who contracted into an agreement to arbitrate in a foreign jurisdiction was bound not only by the local arbitration procedure but also by the supervisory jurisdiction of the courts of the seat of the arbitration.

If the award was defective or the arbitration was defectively conducted, the party who complained of the defect must in the first instance pursue such remedies as existed under that supervisory jurisdiction.

Adherence to that part of the arbitration agreement must be a cardinal policy consideration by an English court considering enforcement of a foreign award.

In a case where a party against whom enforcement was sought alleged that a New York Convention award should not be enforced on the ground that such enforcement would lead to substantial injustice and therefore be contrary to English public policy the following must normally be included among the relevant considerations:

1 The nature of the procedural injustice.

2 Whether that party had invoked the supervisory jurisdiction of the seat of the arbitration.

3 Whether a remedy was available under that jurisdiction.

4 Whether the courts of that jurisdiction had conclusively determined the enforceability of the award.

5 If that party had failed to invoke that remedial jurisdiction, what reason had he and, in particular, whether he was acting unreasonably in failing to do so.

Solicitors: Sinclair Roche & Temperley; Ince & Co.

## European Patent Convention forum shopping

## Sepacor Inc v Hoechst Marion Roussel Ltd and Others

Before Mr Justice Laddie  
[Judgment January 29]

The court would not exercise its discretion so as to make an order which prevented a party from litigating in a court where, under the European Patent Convention, he was entitled to sue. Facts which gave rise to an inference that a defendant had knowingly facilitated or assisted another person to infringe were insufficient to constitute him a joint tortfeasor.

Mr Justice Laddie so held in the Chancery Division, on the hearing of an application by the first to fourth defendants: Hoechst Marion Roussel AG, Hoechst Marion Roussel AG, Hoechst Marion Roussel AG, Hoechst Marion Roussel AG, Hoechst Marion Roussel AG, an American subsidiary of the third defendant, to strike out proceedings against them commenced by the plaintiff, Sepacor Inc, in England on September 28, 1998, seeking a declaration that European Patent (UK) 1,370,433 and the equivalent designations of it in each of 12 other countries, including Denmark and France, but not Belgium, were valid. The seventh defendant, Georgetown University, was co-plaintiff with Sepacor of that patent.

Mr Richard Meade for Sepacor, Mr Andrew Waugh, QC, for the first to sixth defendants.

MR JUSTICE LADDIE said that the UK patent in suit concerned an antiasthmatic drug, terfenadine carboxylate, various Hoechst companies, in various countries, marketed a rival product under the trade marks "Telfast" or "Alkermes".

On May 4, 1998 the fifth defendant and a Belgian company in the Hoechst group had commenced proceedings in Belgium against Sepacor. There had been no pleaded evidence that a patent action there would take some five years to come to trial and any appeal would take another five.

Among practitioners, such forum shopping was called "deploying the Belgian torpedo".

No pleadings responsive to Sepacor's writ and statement of claim having been served, on December 4, the first defendant petitioned the High Court to revoke Sepacor's UK patent and launched the present notice of motion to strike out its writ and statement of claim on the ground, inter alia, that it was not open to Sepacor to sue here in respect of infringement in other countries when the validity of the patents themselves were in issue.

Anyone uncontaminated by familiarity with the European Patent Convention and having to litigate in a national court, might think Germany, the source of all the Hoechst drugs to be sold in Europe, was the obvious forum for resolving validity and infringement. But that was the course both sides wished to avoid: Hoechst wanting the German and French issues decided in Belgium, Sepacor in England. Further, in relation to all countries except England, Sepacor wanted to restrain local infringement without suing the local companies primarily responsible for alleged infringement.

In the light of *Fort Dodge Ltd v Alco Nobel NV* (1998) FSR 222 Sepacor had conceded, without formally agreeing, that the pleaded claims in relation to the foreign designations were not justiciable here so all the relevant parts of the pleadings and particulars of infringement would be struck out.

Mr Waugh had also cited *Sacharín Corporation v Wild* (1993) Ch 410 as justifying a strike-out of those parts of the writ under rule 51(1) or Order 18, rule 19 of the Rules of the Supreme Court 44 likely to prejudice or embarrass or delay the trial of the purely domestic issues.

His Lordship did not accept that authority as justifying that course. Courts here frequently had to decide issues of foreign law.

The choice was between one action here, with evidence relating to 12 countries' laws, nearly identical, or 12 actions in 13 countries, with 20 teams of lawyers.

His Lordship had no doubt that one action would be quicker, cheaper and more convenient. It was well established that considerations of form and procedure were not relevant under the convention and he could think of no circumstances that would justify him in preventing a party from litigating in a court in which the convention entitled him to sue.

The judgment of Lord Justice Hobhouse in *Credit Jonell Bank Nederland NV v Export Credit Guarantee Department* (1998) 1 Lloyd's Rep 191 illustrated the ambit of the law concerning joint tortfeasors.

"There is no tort of knowing assistance... the liability in tort for the act of another depends... upon participation in, or authorisation of, that act..." (at p 42a).

"Acts which knowingly facilitate the commission of a crime amount to... aiding and abetting but they do not amount to a tort or make the aider liable as a joint tortfeasor" (at p 46a).

"Merely knowing assistance does not suffice... the secondary party... must have conspired with the primary party or procured or induced his commission of the tort... or be joined in the common design pursuant to which the tort was committed..." (at p 46b).

Applying that guidance and that of Lord Justice Goff in *Unilever plc v Chefaro Proprietaries Ltd* (1994) FSR 135, 138 to the effect that there must be some act in furtherance of the common design and/or that the secondary party had procured or assisted the primary party to infringe.

His Lordship did not accept that an arguable case of joint tortfeasance had been demonstrated against the third to sixth defendants, who had to be removed from the action.

Solicitors: Hammond Sudards; Bird & Bird.

As most of ESB's service contracts only provided for the company to be paid in the event of its efforts on behalf of the client being successful, the company's activities were initially largely financed through loans made by Mr MacPherson.

When the plaintiffs decided to leave ESB in February 1991, a revised shareholders' agreement dated February 28, 1991 provided for fees received after that date to be applied in the following order: in payment of accrued liabilities; in payment of the loans made by Mr MacPherson; in repayment of loans made by Mr Lyman.

Any surplus was to be distributed between the two plaintiffs and Mr Lyman in the proportions 25:50 as payment for consultancy services provided by them to ESB. Under this provision each of the plaintiffs claimed £38,852.94.

His Lordship rejected Mr Wright's submission that the revised shareholders' agreement constituted an unlawful distribution of company property contrary to section 23 of the Companies Act 1985.

The agreement provided for the payment of the company's overheads, and the balance was more naturally to be regarded as deferred remuneration for those who had previously worked without pay in the expectation of receiving a share of the company's future profits than as a gratuitous pay-

ment of ESB's money to its shareholders.

His Lordship rejected an alternative submission that the plaintiffs, and Mr Lyman, had failed to declare their interests prior to entering into the revised shareholders' agreement contrary to section 317 of the 1985 Act.

There was unanimous shareholder approval of the agreement and no amount of formal disclosure could have increased the other shareholders' relevant knowledge.

In any event a breach of section 317 would only have made the shareholders' agreement voidable. Reliance on such a contravention could only benefit ESB if it had had the opportunity to rescind the agreement and had in fact done so.

Mr MacPherson has resigned his directorship, and both plaintiffs have transferred their shares to Mr Lyman pursuant to the terms of the agreement, which had been performed in a number of respects. It was now impossible for ESB to rescind.

Solicitors: Thomson Snell & Passmore, Tunbridge Wells; Bristows Cooke & Carmichael.

## Revised Interest Rates

Amended Investment and Savings Rates. Effective from 1st March 1999.

Previous						New					
Minimum Investment	AER* Excluding Bonuses	AER* Including Maximum Bonus	Gross* Including Bonus	Gross* Excluding Bonus	Net**	Minimum Investment	AER* Excluding Bonuses	AER* Including Maximum Bonus	Gross* Including Bonus	Gross* Excluding Bonus	Net**
Premium Saver (Annually)						Premium Saver (Annually)					
£100,000+	5.25%	6.25%	6.25%	5.25%	4.20%	£100,000+	4.75%	5.75%	5.75%	4.75%	3.80%
£50,000	5.00%	6.00%	6.00%	5.00%	4.00%	£50,000	4.50%	5.50%	5.50%	4.50%	3.60%
£20,000	4.75%	5.75%	5.75%	4.75%	3.80%	£20,000	4.00%	5.00%	5.00%	4.00%	3.20%
Premium Saver (Monthly)						Premium Saver (Monthly)					
£100,000+	5.22%	6.22%	6.10%	5.10%	4.08%	£100,000+	4.75%	5.75%	5.65%	4.65%	3.72%
£50,000	4.96%	5.96%	5.85%	4.85%	3.88%	£50,000	4.49%	5.49%	5.40%	4.40%	3.52%
£20,000	4.75%	5.75%	5.65%	4.65%	3.72%	£20,000	3.97%	4.97%	4.90%	3.90%	3.12%
Higher Saver (Annually)						Higher Saver (Annually)					
£100,000+	4.75%	5.25%	5.25%	4.75%	3.80%	£100,000+	4.25%	4.75%	4.75%	4.25%	3.40%
£50,000	4.50%	5.00%	5.00%	4.50%	3.60%	£50,000	3.75%	4.25%	4.25%	3.75%	3.00%
£1,000	4.25%	4.75%	4.75%	4.25%	3.40%	£1,000	3.50%	4.00%	4.00%	3.50%	2.80%
Higher Saver (Monthly)						Higher Saver (Monthly)					
£100,000+	4.75%	5.25%	5.15%	4.65%	3.72%	£100,000+	4.23%	4.73%	4.65%	4.15%	3.32%
£50,000	4.49%	4.99%	4.90%	4.40%	3.52%	£50,000	3.71%	4.21%	4.15%	3.65%	2.92%
£1,000	4.23%	4.73%	4.65%	4.15%	3.32%	£1,000	3.45%	3.95%	3.90%	3.40%	2.72%
Regular Saver (Annually)						Regular Saver (Annually)					
£20+	3.75%	6.75%	6.75%	3.75%	3.00%	£20+	3.25%	6.25%	6.25%	3.25%	2.60%

Minimum Balance	Gross*/AER*	Net**
Flexible Savings and Flexible Savings CashCard Account**		
£100,000+	3.75%	3.00%
£50,000	3.00%	2.40%
£20,000	2.50%	2.00%
£10,000	2.00%	1.60%
£5,000	1.75%	1.40%
£1,000	1.50%	1.20%
£500	1.25%	1.00%
£100	1.25%	1.00%
FirstSaver		
£1+	6.75%	5.40%
TESSA		
Platinum TESSA	6.50%	6.50% tax free*
Platinum TESSA (2nd issue)	6.50%	6.50% tax free*
Flex-TESSA	6.00%	6.00% tax free*
Variable Rate	6.00%	6.00% tax free*
Maturity TESSA	6.50%	6.50% tax free*
Monthly Income	6.43%	6.25% tax free*
Maturity TESSA	6.43%	6.25% tax free*

Previous			Capital Trust Accounts		
Capital Trust 30 (Annually)			Capital Trust 30 (Annually)		
Minimum Balance	Gross*/AER*	Net*	Minimum Balance	Gross*/AER*	Net*
£100,000+	6.25%	5.00%	£100,000+	6.25%	5.00%
£50,000	6.00%	4.80%	£50,000	6.00%	4.80%
£20,000	5.75%	4.60%	£20,000	5.75%	4.60%
£10,000	5.25%	4.20%	£10,000	5.25%	4.20%
£5,000	5.00%	4.00%	£5,000	5.00%	4.00%
£1,000	4.75%	3.80%	£1,000	4.75%	3.80%
Capital Trust 30 (Monthly)			Capital Trust 30 (Monthly)		
Minimum Balance	AER*	Gross*	Minimum Balance	AER*	Gross*
£100,000+	6.22%	6.05%	£100,000+	6.22%	6.05%
£50,000	5.96%	5.80%	£50,000	5.96%	5.80%
£20,000	5.75%	5.60%	£20,000	5.75%	5.60%
£10,000	5.22%	5.10%	£10,000	5.22%	5.10%
£5,000	4.96%	4.85%	£5,000	4.96%	4.85%
£1,000	4.75%	4.65%	£1,000	4.75%	4.65%
Capital Trust (Annually)			Capital Trust (Annually)		
Minimum Balance	Gross*/AER*	Net*	Minimum Balance	Gross*/AER*	Net*
£100,000+	6.00%	4.80%	£100,000+	6.00%	4.80%
£50,000	5.75%	4.60%	£50,000	5.75%	4.60%
£20,000	5.50%	4.40%	£20,000	5.50%	4.40%
£10,000	5.00%	4.00%	£10,000	5.00%	4.00%
£5,000	4.75%	3.80%	£5,000	4.75%	3.80%
£1,000	4.50%	3.60%	£1,000	4.50%	3.60%
Capital Trust (Monthly)			Capital Trust (Monthly)		
Minimum Balance	AER*	Gross*	Minimum Balance	AER*	Gross*
£100,000+	5.96%	5.80%	£100,000+	5.96%	5.80%
£50,000	5.75%	5.60%	£50,000	5.75%	5.60%
£20,000	5.49%	5.35%	£20,000	5.49%	5.35%
£10,000	4.96%	4.85%	£10,000	4.96%	4.85%
£5,000	4.75%	4.65%	£5,000	4.75%	4.65%
£1,000	4.49%	4.40%	£1,000	4.49%	4.40%







## TODAY

**Interim:** Close Brothers Group, Domestic & General, Hays, McBride, Redrow, Scottish Inv Trust (first quarter), Finafs, Aggreko, Biscuit Mining, Bilton, Burnham Castrol, Dixon Motors, Finelast Group, Grafton Group, Hodder Headline, London & Associated Properties, Marshalls, Ocean Group, Perkins Foods, Sherwood International, Sun Life & Provincial Holdings. **Economic statistics:** Chartered Institute of Purchasing & Supply February manufacturing sector survey, January new consumer credit, February provisional M0, January final M4, M4 lending.

## TOMORROW

**Interim:** Brit Allcoff, Druid Group, News Communications & Media, Finafs, Ariva, BPP Holdings, CRH, Epwin Group, Fairview Holdings, Gallaher, Hickson International, Jardine Lloyd Thompson Group, Millennium & Co. Home, Norwich Union, PSD Group, Rentokil Initial, RUB Mining, Wates City of London Properties. **Economic statistics:** Halifax February house price survey, end-February official reserves, Bank of England Monetary Policy Committee meeting.

## WEDNESDAY

**Interim:** S. Lyles, Photobition, Finafs, William Baird, Britannic, Calabread, Robey, Cookson Group, Dawson International, Enterprise Oil, GVN, Jacobs Holdings, Parity, Psion, Serco Group, Thistle Hotels, Wilson Bowden. **Economic statistics:** Chartered Institute of Purchasing & Supply February service sector survey, Confederation of British Industry February quarterly distributive trades survey, Bank of England Monetary Policy Committee rate decision.

## THURSDAY

**Interim:** none scheduled. **Finafs:** Elements, Furlong Homes Group, Oxford Glycol Sciences, PowerGen, Rolls-Royce, Sanderson Bramall Motor, Total Oil Group, Vickers, Williams, Xenova. **Economic statistics:** three months to January housing starts, three months to December new construction orders, Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders February new car registrations.

## FRIDAY

**Interim:** Thompsons, Finafs, Grege, Unilever Group. **Economic statistics:** fourth-quarter construction output.

## Rentokil faces its earnings test

**RENTOKIL INITIAL:** There may be some questions posed when the "Royal Ratcatcher" publishes final results tomorrow amid signs that its earnings growth is slowing.

A few years ago, Sir Clive Thompson, chief executive, put himself on the rack by saying that earnings growth of 20 per cent a year was achievable. He fell just short of the target in the first half and is expected to report only a 17 per cent rise in earnings, to 12.1p per share, this time.

Pre-tax profits are expected to be between £485 million and £505 million, against £477 million last time. Shareholders should be rewarded with a final payout of 3.6p to 3.7p, up from last year's 3.06p.

Suspicion that sales growth has slowed because of Rentokil's diverse geographic exposure are likely to be proved right. This may put pressure on the group to make another big acquisition.

Rentokil almost tripled in size when it paid £2.1 billion for BET in 1996. Although Sir Clive has insisted he sees no need for another big purchase in the next two years or so, industry watchers say that the company could look at deals of about £500 million. Compass Group, Securicor and International Service Systems are tipped as potential targets.

Bolt-on acquisitions seem likely. Rentokil bought eight hygiene and security companies for £37 million in January, adding £49 million of turnover.

The business split is 30 per cent hygiene, 25 per cent transport, 14 per cent security, 11 per cent property, 11 per cent personnel and 6 per cent pest control.

Paul Morland, of BT Alex Brown, expects profits of £491 million, and looks for a 2 per cent increase in sales, to £2.93 billion.

**NORWICH UNION:** Last week's admission by Legal & General that it was sacrificing margins for market share sent a shudder through life insurers. However, there should be few such fears with Norwich Union, which is the cheapest in the sector, according to BT Alex Brown, the broker. It expects pre-tax profits of £700 million, against £647 million last time. Earnings per share should be up 7 per cent, from 22.1p to 23.7p. The dividend should be up 10 per cent, to 12.8p. Life profits will be up a tenth.



Sir Clive Thompson may have to fend off some pesky questions about Rentokil's earnings growth

with the domestic market gaining from a high level of maturities of with-profit policies and reasonable investment returns.

**POWERGEN:** Third-quarter results from PowerGen on Thursday will be the first indication of the sort of cost savings obtainable from its £1.9 billion acquisition of East Midlands Electricity.

The group decided last year to change its year end from March to December, and a substantial deficit appears to be on the cards because of big exceptional items. A pre-tax loss of £215 million to £315 million is forecast, against a £376 million profit for the corresponding period. This will be struck after exceptionals of £500

million to £600 million relating to renegotiation of contracts to take Liverpool Bay gas.

Information will be sought on the sale of 4,000 megawatts of coal-fired generating assets that the group decided to shed to gain regulatory approval to buy East Midlands. The group had originally hoped to get £800 million to £1 billion for the two plants, Fiddler's Ferry and Ferrybridge, but recent speculation suggests that it will receive about £1.5 billion.

**BURMAH CASTROL:** Final results today are expected to show pre-tax profits of £235 million to £238 million, down from £279.7 million last time, after hits from currency factors and deteriorating markets in Asia and North America in the second half. The full-year dividend should rise from 40p to 42p.

The core businesses will have performed creditably, despite some pressure on end markets, with both the chemicals and the lubricants businesses holding up well. The key to events will be any comments on the outlook for main markets in the Far East.

Credit Lyonnais Securities expects profits of £238.1 million and a dividend of 42p.

**COOKSON:** The group has just completed a review of operations, and its proposals for restructuring and strategy are expected to be announced with final results

on Wednesday. The materials technology company has said that "marginally better than expected" trading in the fourth quarter has led it to expect pre-tax profits, before exceptional items and goodwill amortisation, of about £150 million for the year to December 31. That figure was towards the top of the City's range of £138 million to £150 million and compares with £91 million the previous year.

Earnings per share are expected to be 14.4p to 15.7p, against earnings before exceptional items of 18p previously.

Despite Cookson's efforts to emphasise an upturn in fourth-quarter trading, analysts do not expect 1998 to have been a fine year because of shutdowns and destocking in the steel industry.

SG Securities, which expects pre-tax profits of £137.5 million and a 9.5p dividend, says that recent action to cut costs suggests that trading has been difficult.

**VICKERS:** The group is expected to reveal strategic plans for its defence unit with final results on Thursday. It has forecast pre-tax profits, before exceptionals, of about £55.6 million, against £76.5 million last time. The payout is forecast to stay at 7.2p.

**ROLLS-ROYCE:** Healthy full-year figures from the aero-engine group are forecast for Thursday. Pre-tax profits before exceptionals are expected to be between £318 million and £325 million, against £276 million a year ago. A final dividend of 6.5p to 6.6p and earnings per share of 16.3p to 17p are expected.

It will be interesting to see whether the group is on track to meet its target of double-digit earnings growth and whether growth comes from top-line figures or is underpinned by a fall in research costs. At the interim stage, Rolls-Royce partially attributed its 16 per cent rise in profits to a reduction in expenditure.

Development in high-margin after-market sales compared with lower-margin original equipment sales will be watched.

**GKN:** Full-year pre-tax profits before exceptionals on Wednesday are expected to be £440 million to £455 million, against £406 million a year earlier. The payout should grow from 14.8p to 16.3p.

## Chances to move rates

Both the Bank of England and the European Central Bank have the opportunity to move interest rates this week. Analysts are divided on whether the Monetary Policy Committee will make yet another cut on Wednesday, but there is a clear consensus that the ECB will not take any action a day later. The recent fall in the euro's value, coupled with interference from Oskar Lafontaine, Germany's Finance Minister, has apparently made ECB council members even more determined to keep to 3 per cent "for the foreseeable future".

However, euroland economic data published next week are likely to keep market hopes of a rate cut later in the spring alive. Figures released tomorrow are expected to show the annual rate of eurozone inflation declining from 0.8 per cent to 0.7 per cent in January, although still comfortably within the ECB's 0 to 2 per cent target. Fourth-quarter GDP figures, which are published on Thursday, are likely to confirm that quarterly growth has stalled, although the annual rate of expansion will remain a respectable 2.1 per cent. The money supply data, published today, should also help to reassure the ECB that future inflation pressures remain subdued, with the annual rate of M3 falling from 4.5 to 4.1 per cent in January.

The biggest test for international markets is likely to be on Friday with the publication of the February employment figures. Analysts are forecasting strong growth in non-Financials which will heighten fears that the Federal Reserve is more likely to raise than cut rates in the next few months.

Back home, a normally quiet data week will be enlivened by the publication tomorrow of the average earnings data after an absence of four months. The earnings series was suspended in November after data revisions turned the received wisdom about the path of earnings growth during 1998 on its head, prompting criticism of the Bank of England's analysis. Analysts expect the figures to show that wage growth has eased since the data were suspended.

On Wednesday the Confederation of British Industry distributive trades survey will provide the first glimpse of whether the January bounce-back in sales has been sustained.

ALASDAIR MURRAY

## SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: Buy Scottish & Southern, Calluna, Carlton, Boomer, Enterprise, Allied London, Axon. The Mail on Sunday: Buy First Choice, Aggreko, Gresham Computers, Sonswood Industries. The Sunday Telegraph: Buy Southnews, Scot.com, Beale, Quarto Publishing, Amec, NSI Retail Systems. The Express: Buy Euro Sales Finance, HC Slingsby, Misys.

## Increase in business failures

By SAIED SHAH

**BUSINESS** failure rates continued to rise in Britain last year, in contrast to the rest of Europe, showing that the country remains out of step with the Continent's business cycle. Britain's distinct business cycle will be one of the key economic barriers to joining the euro, where a single interest rate assumes a broadly synchronised cycle. While European business failures fell on average by 7.8 per cent in 1998,

the number of businesses going to the wall in Britain increased last year by 6.2 per cent, according to a survey published today by Dun & Bradstreet, the business information group.

Britain was the only leading Western European economy to register a significant increase in business failures, with the annual tally increasing by more than 2,000 to a rate of about 775 businesses going bust each week.

In Germany, business failures also rose during 1998 but

only by about 400 or 1.6 per cent. France saw business failures down 14.3 per cent over 1997, while Italy fell by 18.5 per cent. Sweden was down 20 per cent and Austria enjoyed a 38 per cent fall in failure rates.

A separate Dun & Bradstreet survey, also published today, conducted among 10,000 British and continental businessmen, for the first quarter of 1999, showed that business confidence has fallen to its lowest level for five years. Some 62 per cent of business now ex-

pect to increase their sales during the first quarter of 1999, down 3.5 percentage points from the previous quarter.

Philip Mellor, senior business analyst at Dun & Bradstreet, said that Britain's business cycle was 12 to 18 months ahead of Europe. He said that one reason for Britain's different business cycle was the fact that the UK traded to a far greater extent beyond Europe, and so was much more vulnerable to economic conditions elsewhere in the world.

## Two head field to buy Keyline from CRH

By CARL MORITSHED

TRAVIS PERKINS and Wolsley are in the lead to buy Keyline, the £200 million builder's merchants chain, from CRH, the Irish building materials group. Bidding closed late last week; Warburg Dillon Read, which is auctioning Keyline, will shortlist potential buyers. Keyline will be sold as one business, contrary to reports suggesting that the two favourites would carve it up between them, with Travis Perkins taking the North of England and Wolsley taking the South East. Other potential buyers include Graham Group, the quoted builder's merchant that was also named as a takeover target, and venture capitalists.

Corporate activity is bubbling in the building materials sector with Scancem, the quoted Scandinavian group, attracting a queue of potential bidders. CRH is thought to be keen to buy Castle Cement, a subsidiary of Scancem which controls 25 per cent of the UK cement market, the largest stake after Blue Circle. CRH will face competition from RMC and Lafarge, the French company. Scancem's two largest shareholders, Skanska and Aker, which control 75 per cent of the group, have been forced to sell their stake by the competition authorities in Brussels, over concerns about dominance in the Nordic cement market.

New Interest Rates From 1 March 1999					
	OLD RATES		NEW RATES		
	GROSS/NET %	NET %	GROSS/NET %	NET %	NET %
<b>BUSINESS ACCESS ACCOUNT</b>					
£100 +	4.75	4.25	4.25	3.40	
<b>YOUNG SAVER ACCOUNT</b>					
£10 +	4.75	4.25	4.25	3.40	
<b>MONTHLY INTEREST ACCOUNT</b>					
£2,500 - £4,999	2.75	2.78	2.02	1.60	
£5,000 - £9,999	3.75	3.82	3.04	2.40	
£10,000 - £19,999	4.75	4.85	4.50	3.60	
£20,000 +	5.25	5.38	5.00	4.00	
<b>90 DAY NOTICE ACCOUNT</b>					
£2,500 - £4,999	5.00	4.75	4.85	4.50	3.60
£5,000 - £9,999	5.50	5.25	5.38	5.00	4.00
£10,000 - £19,999	6.00	5.75	5.90	5.50	4.40
£20,000 +	6.50	6.25	6.43	6.00	4.80
<b>TRAVELLER'S CHEQUE ACCOUNT</b>					
£100 - £2,499	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
£2,500 - £4,999	1.25	0.80	0.80	0.40	
£5,000 - £9,999	2.00	1.00	1.00	0.80	
£10,000 - £19,999	3.50	2.50	2.50	2.00	
£20,000 +	4.00	3.00	3.00	2.00	
<b>NEW TESSA</b>					
£100 +	7.00	6.50	6.50		
<b>FOLLOWUP TESSA</b>					
£10,000 +	7.00	6.50	6.50		
<b>FINRA RESPONSIBLE S&amp;P, LBS</b>					
(Annual rate 10.25%)					
£100 +	6.55	6.05	6.05		
<b>UNIVERSITY BOND PLUS</b>					
£500 +	5.00	4.50	4.50	3.60	
<b>B&amp;A START ACCOUNT</b>					
£100 +	7.00	6.00	6.00	4.80	

\*Net rate based on current lower rate income tax at 20%.

The rates of interest paid on balances below the minimum for each of the above accounts remain unchanged. These new rates also apply to the rates of interest which have been linked to the Business Access, Monthly Interest, 90 Day Notice and Tessa savings rates. The Corporate Business Access and Followup Tessa Accounts rates remain the same as the Business Access and Tessa Accounts rates.

Interest will be paid net of reserve rate income tax, subject to the relevant corporation tax rates. Where the tax deducted exceeds the tax liability, any amount will be repaid to the account holder on the next payment of interest. The Gross Rate is the rate of interest payable after allowing for deduction of income tax at the applicable rate. The Net Rate is the rate of interest payable after deduction of income tax at the applicable rate. The Net Rate is the rate of interest payable after deduction of income tax at the applicable rate. The Net Rate is the rate of interest payable after deduction of income tax at the applicable rate.

From effect from 28 March 1999, the Society will introduce the following changes to Investment Terms and Conditions.

Quick withdrawal: The Society will now allow a limit of £500 to £500.

Business cheque withdrawal: Business cheques withdrawn will be by cash. No cheque withdrawals will be permitted unless the account holder has a cheque book with a balance of less than £500. For cheques over £500, a minimum cheque withdrawal of £100 per cheque will be required. For cheques over £500, a minimum cheque withdrawal of £100 per cheque will be required.

Share certificate: Share certificates will be issued to your account in any one day (other than by special arrangement with the Society).

A notice of 20 business days must be given to the Society of all current loans and of all accounts no longer payable to new investors, and of all current loans and of all accounts no longer payable to new investors.

**PORTMAN BUILDING SOCIETY**

Portman Building Society, 20 Old Street, London EC1A 3DF. Tel: (01202) 26444. Members of The Building Societies Association.

## AN EXCLUSIVE OFFER THE TIMES

## WAKING NED

## EXCLUSIVE PREVIEWS



## Complimentary tickets 76 venues

This week The Times has teamed up with 20th Century Fox to offer readers the chance to see an exclusive preview screening of *Waking Ned* on Sunday morning, March 14 (exact times will be on the ticket). The film, a raucous modern fairy tale, was a surprise hit at the Cannes Film Festival and won rave reviews when it opened in America at Christmas. Inspired by a true story, *Waking Ned* follows the comic exploits of two friends as they stumble into a lottery scam of hilarious proportions.

For a FREE ticket, which admits two, collect five differently numbered tokens, attach them to the completed voucher right and present them at the cinema box office of your choice, from those listed below. Tickets will be issued on a first-come first-served basis between March 4 and 13. *Waking Ned* opens nationwide on March 19.

## PARTICIPATING CINEMAS

**UCI CINEMAS** Basildon; Bracknell; Derby; Gateshead; Hatfield; Lee Valley; Milton Keynes; Preston; Sheffield; Solihull; Surrey Quays; London SE1; Sutton; Tamworth; Telford; Warrington; Whiteley; London W2; Newcastle WALKER; Cardiff; Swansea

**ODEON CINEMAS** Birmingham; Blackpool; Bournemouth; Brighton; Bromborough; Chelmsford; Cheltenham; Colchester; Hemel Hempstead; Holloway; Hull; Kensington; London W8; Kettering; Leeds; Leicester; Lincoln; Liverpool (Swish); Malden; Manchester; Nottingham; Rotherham; Sheffield; Southend; Stoke on Trent; Streatham; London SW16; Taunton; Worcester; Tunbridge Wells; Coventry; Plymouth SCOTLAND Aberdeen; Edinburgh; Glasgow Quay; Kilmarnock WALKER; Cardiff; Cardiff; Cardiff; Cardiff

**WARNER CINEMAS** Aztec; Basingstoke; Bolton; Bristol; Bury; Cambridge; Croydon; Lagan; Lancaster; Flaxley; Harrow; Leeds; Leicester; Newcastle; Preston; Sheffield; Thurrock; Watford; York SCOTLAND Inverness

**WAKING NED PREVIEW**  
TOKEN 2

## THE TIMES WAKING NED PREVIEW

Present this voucher, with five differently numbered tokens from The Times attached, to one of the participating cinemas between March 4 and 13

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Intels: \_\_\_\_\_

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Day: \_\_\_\_\_

Which one of the following age groups do you fall into?

15-24 ☐ 25-34 ☐ 35-44 ☐ 45-54 ☐ 55-64 ☐ 65+

How often do you read The Times or which of its sister papers do you read?

Monday ☐ Tuesday ☐ Wednesday ☐ Thursday ☐ Friday ☐ Saturday ☐ Don't usually buy The Times ☐

Which national Sunday newspaper(s) do you buy (at least once a week)?

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## THE FACTS

Market cap: £20.53 billion.  
Turnover: in 1998 including associates: £8.3 billion.  
Pre-tax profits: £2.18 billion.  
Employees: 46,550  
Business: Cable & Wireless is an international telecommunications and multimedia operator providing services in more than 50 countries including the UK, the US, Hong Kong, Australia and Japan.

## THE BOARD

**Sir Ralph Robins**, 65, chairman after being a non-executive since 1994. He is also chairman of Rolls-Royce and the Defence Industries Council.

**Graham Wallace**, 50, chief executive, ran Cable & Wireless Communications and is a former finance director of Granada.

**Neil Olsen**, 53, is executive director for Asia Pacific. He joined Cable & Wireless in 1976. He plans to leave the company soon.

**Robert Lewis**, 46, has been executive director, finance, since 1997 and joined Cable & Wireless from the WPP Group where he had been group finance director since 1996.

**Linus Chang**, 50, chief executive of Hongkong Telecom, used to be deputy managing director of CWC, the cable group.

**Stephen Pettit**, 46, executive director, global business, joined Cable & Wireless in 1994 as European managing director from BP. He is also chairman of One-2-One.

The non-executives are: **Winfried Bischoff**, 56, chairman of Schroders; **Janet Morgan**, 52, writer and businesswoman; **David Nash**, 58, former chairman of Grand Metropolitan's food business; and **Raymond Seitz**, 57, vice-chairman of Lehman Brothers and a former US Ambassador to the UK.

This week Graham Wallace is off to Hong Kong. Although in his career he has worked in the US for a couple of years the visit will mark the start of his new international career, as chief executive of Cable & Wireless, the most global of all the would-be dominators of the expanding telecommunications market.

Less than a week into the new job, earned by bashing together Mercury Communications and three cable companies, Bell Cablemedia, Videotron and Nynex CableComms, Wallace says he has "very clear ideas" about what to do with the company founded 125 years ago to take the electronic telegraph around the world.

He is, however, old-fashioned enough to want to share them with his board and staff first. What is absolutely clear is where the emphasis will be placed and Wallace's role in it.

"This whole area of the Internet and data and what you can do through networks is an area where there is huge potential," he says.

"I think the way the price/value cost equation is coming down we are just scratching the surface," adds Wallace, who spent the central part of his career at Granada Group, first as finance director and then running the rental division and then restaurants services.

His management expertise therefore encompasses the financial disciplines, the service sector and the importance of brands all topped up by more than a dash of the latest communications technology acquired at CWC, the cable group.

Wallace, a gravelly voiced, dogged, home-spun executive, is in many ways the complete antithesis of his immediate predecessor, Dick Brown, a flamboyant American.

With luck Wallace's appointment will end nine years of management instability at C&W stretching back nine years to the days when Lord Young of Graffham was chairman. The comings and goings have been such that Rod Olsen, who has run the Asia Pacific businesses, and is soon to leave the company to start a new life in Australia, has had to fill in as acting chief executive.

Even though it was always

## CORPORATE



Graham Wallace, left, starts a new international career as he takes the reins at Cable & Wireless. In some ways he is the antithesis to his predecessor, Dick Brown, right, the flamboyant American. One difficult issue for Wallace, who sees mobile phones as part of C&W's future, is the ownership of One-2-One

likely that Dick Brown would merely be passing through it is difficult to overstate the C&W's contribution. His plan to raise \$1 billion by tidying up a mish-mash of minority interests was a useful start. But it is the \$1 billion deal to buy the Internet backbone business of MCI that has helped to create much of the potential that Wallace has inherited.

Today SG Securities will publish a study of Cable & Wireless suggesting that the value of the Internet acquisition needs to be increased by more than £2 billion because of the ferment in Internet stocks.

The plan to spend another \$1 billion over five years building a fully integrated voice, Internet and data super-network linking more than 40 European cities is another part of the jig-saw.

Yet to some extent Brown did the "easy" bits and Wallace faces the much tougher task of implementing a vision and dealing with a re-

maining knotty series of structural issues that the City, at least, believes will not go away if C&W is to make the full transition from a federation of fairly discrete entities into a fully integrated global player.

The first tricky problem is C&W's 54 per cent stake in Hongkong Telecom. The London-based group has successfully negotiated both the takeover in 1997 and the opening-up of the market to competition but hopes of an early entry into mainland China seem likely to be frustrated for some time.

With analysts predicting falling revenues in Hong Kong C&W will have to decide whether to play what could be a very long game in China.

Dresdner Kleinwort Benson suggests that it might be sensible to de-couple Hongkong Telecom from the rest of Cable & Wireless so that investors do not have to invest in the future of telecommunications in China whether they like it or not.

Another difficult issue is the ownership of One-2-One, the mobile phone company in the UK, a 50-50 joint venture with Media One, the US cable company.

There is a bit of an impasse because both sides would probably like to be a 100 per cent owner, but the likely outcome is a flotation of a minority stake in One-2-One. Wallace sees mobile as part of the group's future as part of the range of delivery mechanisms to bring services to customers and says the relationship is working well. "I wouldn't see it as a pressing problem because it works," says Wallace.

As the former head of CWC Graham Wallace may find him-

self having to take some urgent decisions about Telewest, one of the other big three cable operators. There is a widespread belief that major Telewest shareholder TCI/AT&T is prepared to sell its stake, and Wallace may have to decide to bid or see the company go to the other major cable player, NTL.

Analysts would also like to see some of the potential US Internet value crystallised with the float of a minority stake in the US Internet business.

Whichever way Wallace jumps on this and other issues what is clear is that the venerable company is once again in the midst of reinventing itself and can justify claim that its reputation as a stumbling giant has already been transformed.

There are global banks and organisations like Andersen Consulting who are giving us business that three years ago we would not have got because they believe we can provide the packaging that they want

around the world," says Olsen. At CWC Wallace spent an enormous amount of money and effort creating a Cable & Wireless Communications brand in the public mind. At first he was worried that the words "cable" and "wireless" were old-fashioned. His children put him right. Cable was associated in their minds with cable television and wireless with trendy cordless communications. So the name Cable & Wireless stays.

It is not known yet how much he will be paid but Dick Brown's 1998 pay would have exceeded £4 million although most was performance-related. According to Crisp Consulting this is double the amount expected for someone of his experience in a FTSE company, although the telecommunications sector has special features. The "impressive" non-executives are paid £30,000 a year.

Cable & Wireless also scores well on ethical expression. According to Integrity Works, which has acted as advisers to C&W, it has a clear ethics policy which has been communicated to staff through designated staff in each business area.

As he starts to explore his new domain Graham Wallace has set himself the task of turning C&W into one of the world's top telecoms players in five years. He has a long way to go. In the past year C&W has underperformed the telecoms sector in the FTSE 100 by 63 per cent. Its progress will attract the closest scrutiny and if the potential does not turn into reality 125 years of independence could easily come to an end.

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RAYMOND SNOODY

Ethical expression	71.0
Financial record	71.0
Share performance	64.0
Attitude to staff	81.0
Strength of brand	71.0
Innovation	81.0
Annual report	81.0
City star rating	81.0
Future prospects	91.0
Total	692.00

Ethical expression is evaluated by Integrity Works. The best score given, in which best broadband pay practice scores highest, is provided by Virgin Communications.

ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENTS																																		
1998/99							1998/99							1998/99							1998/99													
High	Low	Mid Cap (millions)	Price	Div	Yld	P/E	High	Low	Mid Cap (millions)	Price	Div	Yld	P/E	High	Low	Mid Cap (millions)	Price	Div	Yld	P/E	High	Low	Mid Cap (millions)	Price	Div	Yld	P/E	High	Low	Mid Cap (millions)	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
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191	74	2.40	100	0.00	...	...	409	170	19.10	240	...	...	...	46	17	3.94	20	...	...	...	1	0	1.08	100	...	...	...	108	10	1.08	100	...	...	...
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191	74	2.40	100	0.00	...	...	409	170	19.10	240	...	...	...	46	17	3.94	20	...	...	...	1	0	1.08	100	...	...	...	108	10	1.08	100	...	...	...
191	74	2.40	100	0.00	...	...	409	170	19.10	240	...	...	...	46	17	3.94	20	...	...	...	1	0	1.08	100	...	...	...	108	10	1.08	100	...	...	...
191	74	2.40	100	0.00	...	...	409	170	19.10	240	...	...	...	46	17	3.94	20	...	...	...	1	0	1.08	100	...	...	...	108	10	1.08	100	...	...	...
191	74	2.40	100	0.00	...	...	409	170	19.10	240	...	...	...	46	17	3.94	20	...	...	...	1	0	1.08	100	...	...	...	108	10	1.08	100	...	...	...
191	74	2.40	100	0.00	...	...	409	170	19.10	240	...	...	...	46	17	3.94	20	...	...	...	1	0	1.08	100	...	...	...	108	10	1.08	100	...	...	...
191	74	2.40	100	0.00	...	...	409	170	19.10	240	...	...	...	46	17	3.94	20	...	...	...	1	0	1.08	100	...	...	...	108	10	1.08	100	...	...	...
191	74	2.40	100	0.00	...	...	409	170	19.10	240	...	...	...	46	17	3.94	20	...	...	...	1	0	1.08	100	...	...	...	108	10	1.08	100	...	...	...
191	74	2.40	100	0.00	...	...	409	170	19.10	240	...	...	...	46	17	3.94	20	...	...	...	1	0	1.08	100	...	...	...	108	10	1.08	100	...	...	...
191	74	2.40	100	0.00	...	...	409	170	19.10	240	...	...	...	46	17	3.94	20	...	...	...	1	0	1.08	100	...	...	...	108	10	1.08	100	...	...	...
191	74	2.40	100	0.00	...	...	409	170	19.10	240	...	...	...	46	17	3.94	20	...	...	...	1	0	1.08	100	...	...	...	108	10	1.08	100	...	...	...
191	74	2.40	100	0.00	...	...	409	170	19.10	240	...	...	...	46	17	3.94	20	...	...	...	1	0	1.08	100	...	...	...	108	10	1.08	100	...	...	...
191	74	2.40	100	0.00	...	...	409	170	19.10	240	...	...	...	46	17	3.94	20	...	...	...	1	0	1.08	100	...	...	...	108	10	1.08	100	...	...	...
191	74	2.40	100	0.00	...	...	409	170	19.10	240	...	...	...	46	17	3.94	20	...	...	...	1	0	1.08	100	...	...	...	108	10	1.08	100	...	...	...
191	74	2.40	100	0.00	...	...	409	170	19.10	240	...	...	...	46	17	3.94	20	...	...	...	1	0	1.08	100	...	...	...	108	10	1.08	100	...	...	...
191	74	2.40	100	0.00	...	...	409	170	19.10	240	...	...	...	46	17	3.94	20	...	...	...	1	0	1.08	100	...	...	...	108	10	1.08	100	...	...	...
191	74	2.40	100	0.00	...	...	409	170	19.10	240	...	...	...	46	17	3.94	20	...	...	...	1	0	1.08	100	...	...	...	108	10	1.08	100	...	...	...
191	74	2.40	100	0.00	...	...	409	170	19.10	240	...	...	...	46	17	3.94	20	...	...	...	1	0	1.08	100	...	...	...	108	10	1.08	100	...	...	...
191	74	2.40	100	0.00	...	...	409	170	19.10	240	...	...	...	46	17	3.94	20	...	...	...	1	0	1.08	100	...	...	...	108	10	1.08	100	...	...	...
191	74	2.40	100	0.00	...	...	409	170	19.10	240	...	...	...	46	17	3.94	20	...	...	...	1	0	1.08	100	...	...	...	108	10	1.08	100	...	...	...
191	74	2.40	100	0.00	...	...	409	170	19.10	240	...	...	...	46	17	3.94	20	...	...	...	1	0	1.08	100	...	...	...	108	10	1.08	100	...	...	...
191	74	2.40	100	0.00	...	...	409	170	19.10	240	...	...	...	46	17	3.94	20	...	...	...	1	0	1.08	100	...	...	...	108	10	1.08	100	...	...	...
191	74	2.40	100	0.00	...	...	409	170	19.10	240	...	...	...	46	17	3.94	20	...	...	...	1	0	1.08	100	...	...	...	108	10	1.08	100	...	...	...
191	74	2.40	100	0.00	...	...	409	170	19.10	240	...	...	...	46	17	3.94	20	...	...	...	1	0	1.08	100	...	...	...	108	10	1.08	100	...	...	...
191	74	2.40	100	0.00	...	...	409	170	19.10	240	...	...	...	46	17	3.94	20	...	...	...	1	0	1.08	100	...	...	...	108	10	1.08	100	...	...	...
191	74	2.40	100	0.00	...	...	409	170	19.10	240	...	...	...	46	17	3.94	20	...	...	...	1	0	1.08	100	...	...	...	108	10	1.08	100	...	...	...
191	74	2.40	100	0.00	...	...	409	170	19.10	240	...	...	...	46	17	3.94	20	...	...	...	1	0	1.08	100	...	...	...	108	10	1.08	100	...	...	...
191	74	2.40	100	0.00	...	...	409	170	19.10	240	...	...	...	46	17	3.94	20	...	...	...	1	0	1.08	100	...	...	...	108	10	1.08	100	...	...	...
191	74	2.40	100	0.00	...	...	409	170	19.10	240	...	...	...	46	17	3.94	20	...	...	...	1	0	1.08	100	...	...	...	108	10	1.08	100	...	...	...
191	74	2.40	100	0.00	...	...	409																											



## French efforts to cut jobless figures rebound

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

THE French Government's efforts to attack unemployment through a cut in working hours is turning into an expensive fiasco that will handicap French companies, according to new research.

The study shows that, half-way through a two-year programme, the scheme has created just 24,155 jobs. France's Socialist-led Government had hoped that it would create between 400,000 and 700,000 over the period.

But the project is not only inefficient, but also costly. An investigation by the pro-Government news magazine, *Le Nouvel Observateur*, concluded that it could end up costing the state between Fr65 billion (£7 billion) and Fr100 billion (£10 billion) for the foreseeable future.

"This is a figure that makes the Finance Ministry red with rage," said the magazine. Analysts say the only benefit from the legislation will be increased flexibility in France's otherwise rigid working practices.

The flagship policy of Prime Minister Lionel Jospin's Government was once touted as a French response to a French problem - high unemployment - just under three million.

Companies employing more than 200 people were given two years to negotiate a reduction in the working week from 39 to 35 hours with no loss of pay for staff. Smaller firms have twice as long. Employers who meet the timetable are rewarded with tax reductions of Fr5,000 per worker per year.

Croissance Plus, an association that represents blue-chip firms, said the move will add Fr5 million to the costs of the average medium-sized firm, even after state aid of Fr2 million. As a result, most industrialists are doing their best to get round the legislation.

Nowhere was this clearer than in the deal struck by unions representing 1.8 million metal workers and miners with employers such as Renault, the carmaker. The working week created by four hours, basic salaries remained the same, and overtime rose. In return, union leaders agreed to flexible working patterns.

## BAA says terminal failure will cost £250m

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

BAA, the airports operator, will this week put a £250 million price tag on failure to win approval for a fifth terminal at Heathrow. Lawyers for the company will set out the high cost of work already completed on the £1.8 billion project that is running at least five years behind schedule.

BAA will make its final submission to the Terminal Five inquiry, which is entering the last fortnight of its marathon run of almost three years.

The cost of buying land, of designing the building and paying for legal teams at the inquiry has been a huge drain on BAA, which must now wait until at least 2001 before ministers finally decide whether to give the scheme the go-ahead. If successful, BAA hopes to open the terminal in 2006.

In this week's summing-up, David Silcock, BAA's counsel, will tell the inquiry that the company will accept a legally binding freeze on the number of night flights to try to meet local fears about noise. However, he will reject as unworkable protesters' demands for a total ban on night flights.

BAA, whose chief executive is Sir John Egan, is confident that it could win approval and believe the length of the inquiry has strengthened its case, although the company has some fears that conditions attached to approval could make the project unviable.

Des Wilson, BAA's corpo-

rate director, said: "Everything that we warned about at the beginning of the inquiry is now being shown to be true." Congestion at Heathrow, both at the airport and on surrounding roads, is deterring many passengers and some airlines from using the world's busiest international airport.

The massive growth of rival airports at Amsterdam, Frankfurt and Paris has underlined fears that Britain could lose its pre-eminence as an international link, unless extra capacity is provided. The airport is struggling to cope with its 58 million annual passengers but BAA says an extra terminal would enable it to set a permanent ceiling of 80 million passengers.

The company insists that it would never build a third runway that would allow passenger numbers to surge towards 100 million. Campaigners against the terminal remain unconvinced and have used their final submissions to the inquiry to underline their concerns that an additional terminal will lead to further expansion of the airport and even greater growth than predicted by BAA.

Traffic at Heathrow is growing by just 3 per cent because of the capacity constraints on airlines. That compares with an overall 7 per cent rise in airline traffic for all of BAA's airports, much of which is being generated at Stansted which is accommodating spillover traffic from Heathrow and Gatwick.



Sir John Egan, left, and Russell Walls, BAA finance director, with a model of the fifth terminal

## Float looming for Canary Wharf project

BY MARTIN WALLER

CANARY WHARF is this week expected to confirm plans for a stock market float and to indicate what proportion of the company will be offered to investors.

The decision will boost the troubled property share market, which on Friday received further negative news as BAA cancelled plans to float its property subsidiary, Lynton.

Although Canary Wharf, which owns and developed the London Docklands site, has never confirmed intending to float, all the advisers are now in place and preparations are in hand for a spring market debut that would value the company at more than £2 billion.

The final decision is expected to go to the wire, given the current state of the markets. However, it is expected that Canary Wharf will announce a decision and give a guide as to how much of the company will be floated.

Although a float could raise new funds, the main aim will

be to offer an exit for the group of investors who bought the company from the banks after its bankruptcy in 1992.

They include Franklin Mutual and CNA Financial, two US funds, Prince al-Waleed bin Talal, the Saudi investor, and Paul Reichmann, the Canadian property developer who initiated the scheme only to see it bring about the collapse of his business empire.

Canary Wharf has 4.7 million sq ft built, and 2.1 million sq ft under development. The float prospectus is likely to focus more on growth prospects and the further 6.5 million sq ft potentially available on undeveloped land, and the probability of rises in rental levels as tenancies granted when the development was in financial difficulties come up for renewal.

Crucial to a float is the arrival this year of the Jubilee Line extension of the Tube. An attempt to take the project public last year was pulled because of stock market uncertainty.

## Grid gets chief at Littlewoods

BY SAEED SHAH

JAMES ROSS, chairman of Littlewoods, the retail group, is to succeed David Jefferies as chairman of National Grid, the electricity network.

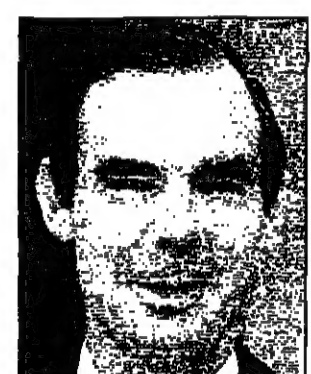
Mr Ross, aged 60, will join the National Grid board today and take over as non-executive chairman when Mr Jefferies retires at the company's annual general meeting in July. He will remain non-executive chairman of Littlewoods.

Before joining Littlewoods, Mr Ross was chief executive of Cable & Wireless, from 1992 to 1995. He had earlier been managing director of British Petroleum and chairman and chief operating officer of BP America.

Mr Jefferies said: "James Ross's knowledge of the energy and telecoms sectors, together with his experience in overseas markets, suits him ideally to

the group as it expands... beyond our core UK business."

National Grid last month announced a 50 per cent interest in a Brazilian telecoms consortium, in which it will put up to £200 million over four years.



Ross: overseas experience

## Asda ready to fight back in price war

BY SAEED SHAH

ASDA, the supermarket chain, is preparing to deliver a broadside in the latest round of the supermarket price war, with plans for extensive price cuts.

Asda is thought to be responding to an initiative by

Tesco, which tried to outmanoeuvre its rivals earlier this month by cutting the prices of hundreds of products. Asda is believed to be preparing a response, which could be unveiled as early as next week.

The Tesco initiative, which covers all its 600 stores, saw

the prices of some 240 items reduced by up to 25 per cent. The campaign is thought to be costing Tesco up to £1 million a week in lost revenues.

Asda refused to give any details of its plan over the weekend but it is believed that it will pledge to undercut its ri-

vals permanently and cut the cost of thousands of items.

Price-cutting promotions have increased ahead of the results of the official investigation into competition among the big supermarkets.

The Office of Fair Trading inquiry into profits of the four lead-

ing chains, which together control 45 per cent of the £87 billion-a-year grocery market, was due to report before Christmas. It is expected to reveal its decision in the spring, which will determine whether a full-scale inquiry by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission is appropriate.

## Olivetti wins approval for Telecom bid

BY CARL MORTIMER, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS EDITOR

TELECOM ITALIA has been pushed back on to the defensive by Consob, the Italian stock market regulator that has approved Olivetti's £30 billion bid for the telephone utility.

Olivetti's success in winning the opening skirmish in the David v Goliath battle means that Telecom Italia will be unable to put into place poison pills or a restructuring of the business designed to deter Olivetti. Telecom Italia had indicated its interest in merging its 40 per cent mobile-phone affiliate, TIM, a move that would have put the phone utility beyond the financial reach of Olivetti.

France's Bernabe, Telecom Italia's chief executive, said: "I don't have any poison pills in my pocket but I have a plan: increasing the value of our company."

Consob gave the go-ahead for Olivetti's bid at Telecom Italia over the weekend after initially ruling the bid inadmissible. Consob objected to the conditionality of the offer which depends on securing a deal with Mannesmann, Olivetti's German partner, under which

Mannesmann would buy Olivetti's share in Omnitel and Infostrada, the fast-growing mobile and fixed-line telecoms businesses.

The Consob decision means that Olivetti's offer must be launched in April. The lengthy interregnum is necessary for Mannesmann to secure approval from the Government for the takeover of the Omnitel and Infostrada licences.

Olivetti failed to increase its offer from €10 (£8.80) per share but the deal approved by Consob includes a five trillion lire (£1.7 billion) cash call by Olivetti and former arrangements with Mannesmann.

Both Olivetti and Telecom Italia face a new competitor in the telecoms sector. Wind, a joint venture between Enel, the energy utility, France Telecom, and Deutsche Telekom, which plans to secure up to 1.5 million users in 1999.

Wind launches its service on Monday and claims an advantage over Olivetti and Telecom Italia because it is selling both fixed and mobile services at the same time.

## Williams out to rescue its image

BY PAUL ARMSTRONG

WILLIAMS, the 1980s-style conglomerate, will this week try to improve its battered image by highlighting growth in its Australian operations.

It may be Williams's last chance to convince investors that the paint-to-fire extinguishers group can achieve respectable earnings growth and improve a depressed market rating. Its shares have badly underperformed the FTSE 100 over five years and failure to outpace the City could lead to calls for radical changes and management upheaval. Williams hopes to meet analysts'

demands for organic sales growth of up to 10 per cent in its Australian security and fire protection business.

The crucial figure will be given on Thursday in Williams's annual profit result, expected to be in line with City forecasts of £300 million before tax. Williams aims to use the profit report to argue that its move away from manufacturing and into fire protection and security services will deliver earnings growth and a rating closer to a service rather than manufacturing business. It sees its Australian side as a model.

## revised interest rates

NOTICE TO ALL BORROWERS						
The Society's standard variable base rate for existing borrowers will be reduced to 6.95% from 1st March 1999 or at such other time in accordance with the terms of the mortgage deed.						
NOTICE TO INVESTORS						
REVISED INTEREST RATES						
EFFECTIVE AT 1st MARCH 1999						
CURRENT ISSUES						
AMOUNT INVESTED	GROSS%	NET%	AER%	GROSS%	NET%	AER%
NOVA PLUS SPECIAL ACCOUNT						
Annual Interest £10,000 - £300,000	4.00	3.20	4.00	3.60	2.80	3.60
NOVA PLUS (ISSUE 2) NOVA GROSS (ISSUE 2)						
Annual Interest £10,000 - £300,000	3.80	3.04	3.80	3.40	2.72	3.40
£300,000 - £499,999	3.20	2.56	3.20	2.80	2.24	2.80
£500,000 - £999,999	2.80	2.24	2.80	2.40	1.92	2.40
£1,000,000 - £4,999,999	1.80	1.44	1.80	1.40	1.12	1.40
Monthly Interest £10,000 - £300,000	3.80	3.04	3.80	3.40	2.72	3.40
£300,000 - £499,999	3.20	2.56	3.20	2.80	2.24	2.80
£500,000 - £999,999	2.80	2.24	2.80	2.40	1.92	2.40
Monthly Interest £1,000,000 - £4,999,999	1.80	1.44	1.80	1.40	1.12	1.40
NOVA STAR (TENTH ISSUE)						
Annual Interest £10,000 - £300,000	5.25	4.20	5.25	4.75	3.80	4.75
£300,000 - £499,999	5.10	4.08	5.10	4.60	3.68	4.60
£500,000 - £999,999	4.75	3.80	4.75	4.25	3.40	4.25
£1,000,000 - £4,999,999	3.25	2.60	3.25	2.85	2.28	2.85
Monthly Interest £10,000 - £300,000	5.00	4.00	5.00	4.50	3.60	4.50
£300,000 - £499,999	4.75	3.80	4.75	4.25	3.40	4.25
£500,000 - £999,999	4.25	3.40	4.25	3.85	3.08	3.85
Monthly Interest £1,000,000 - £4,999,999	2.85	2.28	2.85	2.35	1.88	2.35
NOVA 18 SAVINGS ACCOUNT						
Annual Interest £1 - £10,000	4.55	3.64	4.55	4.05	3.24	4.05
NOVA ACCESS DIRECT 2						
Annual Interest £10,000 - £100,000	6.40	5.12	6.40	6.00	4.80	6.00
£100,000 - £199,999	6.20	4.96	6.20	5.80	4.64	5.80
£200,000 - £299,999	6.05	4.84	6.05	5.65	4.52	5.65
£300,000 - £399,999	6.15	4.92	6.15	5.75	4.60	5.75
£400,000 - £499,999	5.95	4.76	5.95	5.55	4.44	5.55
£500,000 - £999,999	5.80	4.64	5.80	5.40	4.32	5.40
NOVA STAR (EIGHTH ISSUE)						
Annual Interest £10,000 - £300,000	5.25	4.20	5.25	4.75	3.80	4.75
£300,000 - £499,999	5.00	4.00	5.00	4.50	3.60	4.50
£500,000 - £999,999	4.75	3.80	4.75	4.25	3.40	4.25
£1,000,000 - £4,999,999	3.25	2.60	3.25	2.85	2.28	2.85
NOVA SELECT III						
Annual Interest £10,000 - £300,000	5.70	4.56	5.70	5.20	4.16	5.20
£300,000 - £499,999	5.60	4.48	5.60	5.10	4.08	5.10
£500,000 - £999,999	5.45	4.36	5.45	4.95	3.96	4.95
£1,000,000 - £4,999,999	5.25	4.20	5.25	4.75	3.80	4.75
NOVA SUPER FEEDER (S.A.T.E. FEEDER ACCOUNT)						
Annual Interest £10,000 - £300,000	5.15	4.12	5.15	4.65	3.72	4.65
NOVA FEEDER (S.A.T.E. FEEDER ACCOUNT)						
Annual Interest £10,000 - £300,000	4.15	3.32	4.15	3.65	2.92	3.65
HIGH/EXTRA HIGH INTEREST ACCOUNTS						
Annual Interest £10,000 - £300,000	3.80	3.04	3.80	3.38	2.70	3.38
£300,000 - £499,999	3.38	2.70	3.38	3.00	2.40	3.00
£500,000 - £999,999	3.00	2.40	3.00	2.70	2.16	2.70
£1,000,000 - £4,999,999	2.38	1.90	2.38	2.16	1.73	2.16

CLOSED ISSUES (ACCOUNTS NO LONGER AVAILABLE)						
AMOUNT INVESTED	GROSS%	NET%	AER%	GROSS%	NET%	AER%
PREVIOUS PAGE				NEW RATE		
NOVA PLUS/NOVA GROSS/NOVA NOTICE DEPOSIT ACCOUNT						
(INCLUDES CLOSED ISSUES TRANSFERS OF INTEREST) (SEE RATES ON NOT APPLY TO NOVA GROSS)						
Annual Interest: £10,000 - £300,000	3.80	3.04	3.80	3.40	2.72	3.40
£300,000 - £499,999	3.20	2.56	3.20	2.80	2.24	2.80
£500,000 - £999,999	2.80	2.24	2.80	2.40	1.92	2.40
£1,000,000 - £4,999,999	1.80	1.44	1.80	1.40	1.12	1.40
Monthly Interest: £1 - £999	0.50	0.40	0.50	0.50	0.40	0.50
£1,000,000 - £300,000	3.80	3.04	3.80	3.40	2.72	3.40
£300,000 - £499,999	3.20	2.56	3.20	2.80	2.24	2.80
£500,000 - £999,999	2.80	2.24	2.80	2.40	1.92	2.40
MONTHLY INTEREST AVAILABLE ON BALANCES OF £100 OR MORE						
SMALL SAVERS/SMALL SAVERS DEPOSIT ACCOUNT						
Annual Interest: £1 - £999	2.90	2.32	2.90	2.40	1.92	2.40
CLUB ACCOUNT/CLUB DEPOSIT ACCOUNT						
Annual Interest: £50,000 - £99,999	3.55	2.84	3.55	3.05	2.44	3.05
£100,000 - £499,999	2.80	2.24	2.80	2.30	1.84	2.30
Monthly Interest: £50,000 - £99,999	3.30	2.64	3.30	2.80	2.24	2.80
£100,000 - £499,999	2.55	2.04	2.55	2.05	1.64	2.07
MONTHLY INTEREST AVAILABLE ON BALANCES OF £100 OR MORE THE ACCOUNT WAS ONLY AVAILABLE TO CURRENT CLUB MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATES.						
NOVA 50*						
Annual Interest: £50,000 - £100,000	6.30	5.04	6.30	5.80	4.64	5.80
Monthly Interest: £50,000 - £100,000	6.05	4.84	6.05	5.55	4.44	5.69
NOVA GROSS SPECIAL ACCOUNT						
Annual Interest: £10,000 - £300,000	4.00	-	4.00	3.60	-	3.60
TERESA 2						
Annual Interest: £1 - £9,999	6.35	5.08	6.35	5.75	-	5.75
SUBJECT TO TERMS AND CONDITIONS. YEARLY LIMITS ARE FOR INDIVIDUALS.						
DIRECT 50						
Annual Interest: £100,000 - £300,000	6.45	5.16	6.45	5.95	4.76	5.95
Monthly Interest: £100,000 - £300,000	6.20	4.96	6.38	5.70	4.56	5.85
THIS PRODUCT WAS ONLY AVAILABLE THROUGH HERMISTON DIRECT						
NOVA STAR (NINTH ISSUE)						
Annual Interest: £10,000 - £300,000	5.25	4.20	5.25	4.75	3.80	4.75
£50,000 - £99,999	3.10	2.48	3.10	2.60	2.08	2.60
£100,000 - £499,999	3.20	2.72	3.20	2.25	1.80	2.25
Monthly Interest: £10,000 - £300,000	5.00	4.00	5.11	4.50	3.60	4.59
£50,000 - £99,999	2.85	2.28	2.89	2.35	1.88	2.38
QUANTITIES TO RETURN AND GROSS ABOVE NEWCASTLE HERMISTON SHARE RATE						
MONTHLY INTEREST AVAILABLE ON BALANCES OF £100 OR MORE.						
NOVA STAR (EIGHTH ISSUE)						
Annual Interest: £1,000 - £300,000	5.25	4.20	5.25	4.75	3.80	4.75
Monthly Interest: £500 - £300,000	5.00	4.00	5.12	4.50	3.60	4.59
QUANTITIES TO RETURN UP TO THE GROSS ABOVE NEWCASTLE HERMISTON SHARE RATE						
MONTHLY INTEREST AVAILABLE ON BALANCES OF £100 OR MORE.						
NOVA SELECT III						
Annual Interest: £25,000 - £300,000	5.70	4.54	5.70	5.20	4.16	5.20
£1,000 - £24,999	5.60	4.48	5.60	5.10	4.08	5.10
Monthly Interest: £25,000 - £300,000	5.45	4.36	5.59	4.95	3.96	5.06
£5,000 - £24,999	5.35	4.28	5.48	4.85	3.88	4.96
NOVA SUPER FEEDER (S.A.T.E. FEEDER ACCOUNT)						
£5,000 - £300,000	5.15	4.12	5.15	4.65	3.72	4.65
NOVA FEEDER (S.A.T.E. FEEDER ACCOUNT)						
£1 - £1,200	4.15	3.32	4.15	3.65	2.92	3.65
HIGH/EXTRA HIGH INTEREST ACCOUNTS						
Annual Interest: £50,000 - £300,000	3.80	3.04	3.80	3.38	2.70	3.38
£250 - £49,999	3.38	2.70	3.38	3.28	2.70	3.28
Monthly Interest: £50,000 - £300,000	3.80	3.04	3.87	3.38	2.70	3.43
£5,000 - £49,999	3.38	2.70	3.43	3.38	2.70	3.43







# Quick fix supplied by Bodge and Scarper

Bewailing the overabundance of fly-on-the-wall documentaries has become as quixotic as complaining about bull-bats or middle-aged men wearing baseball caps.

We had two new examples this weekend: *The Builders* (BBC1, Friday) and *Shanghai Vice* (Channel 4, Sunday). Both, in their way, broke new ground. *Shanghai Vice* because of the candour of the footage which Phil Agland has obtained from one of the most secretive societies in the world.

We followed the life of Miss Tang, a young medic who has moved to this throbbing city from the country. Shanghai was opened to the world three years ago. The colonial waterfront evokes Liverpool, the skyscrapers behind evoke Hong Kong. Tang goes everywhere with her landlady Mrs Feng, a Chaucerian widow, 65 and still chasing a good sex life.

Most of the material, however,

features the Shanghai police, struggling to dam up a flood of heroin, brought into the city by impenetrable cliques of disaffected Muslims from the northwest provinces. Their methods are direct and brutal, and they don't care who knows it, apparently. They have not yet learnt how to manipulate television and are consequently fascinating to watch.

My only regret is that, because Shanghai people speak very fast, and because it is harder to pick up signals from their unfamiliar intonation and gestures, you rely entirely on the subtitles which fly by so quickly that you hardly have time to ponder the images.

*The Builders* was groundbreaking in two senses. First literally — two of the outfits concerned dug up plots of grass to lay foundations for a new bungalow and a rear extension. More importantly, however, the programme has raised the docusoap to a previously

unexplored level of pointlessness. Overworked, overextended and overthought as it is, this genre can still offer some perverse pleasure. There will be a character so dismal, an egomaniac so irritating, that their mundane tergiversations take on a distasteful fascination. They offer the viewer a few drops of a drug as insidiously addictive as nicotine, cocaine or kryptonite — a potent snuff, namely a vague sense of superiority.

I like me, you see Jim, the annoying Green Green "blacksmith" on *Love Town*, as a bit of a prat, it follows that you yourself feel less of a prat by comparison. That feeling, though psychologically fattening, is undoubtedly "moreish". Take it away and there is not much left.

*The Builders* sets out to redress the bad reputation of Britain's builders by presenting us with a range of hard-working, chirpy,



slightly roughish but loveable chaps from around the country. They are like characters from an updated Ealing comedy, always ready with their cheeky smiles and, above the back of their jeans, their smiley cheeks, always chasing another cuppa, darlin'.

They are, we are led to believe, friendly, honest and competent. The main point of interest seems to be that they evoke chortling lust in

the women they work for. Otherwise we are just watching a bunch of guys drinking tea, laying concrete, grumbling that the free crassians are cold, knocking a wall down, building a wall up and drinking more tea.

But the bad reputation of the building trade didn't just arrive in the post, like a misdirected parking fine. The nation's builders have made strenuous efforts over many decades to earn it, and it should not be thrown away in this cavalier fashion.

I now have a wonderful builder. I am relieved to say, but only after years of suffering the catalogue of boding, procrastination, false estimates, flanneling, lack of consideration and downright deceit that most punters experience from most builders of the time.

To add insult to injury, the perpetrators are usually cocky know-alls who genuinely believe that their unreliability, sharp-practice and

inability to cut anything to size represents the height of craftsmanship. If we must have a docusoap on this national disgrace, why can't we follow a bunch of these Jack-the-lads, patting themselves on the back as they mess up innocent people's homes.

The horrible behaviour of a cowboy builder who once "converted" the house next door to our old home caused me to have elaborate fantasies involving his torture, mutilation and death. Many builders would make particularly gratifying victims for a series like *Murder Most Horrid* (BBC2, Friday).

Because the stories are "one-offs" the quality is variable, but that is also the show's strength. You never know quite what to expect, although you can usually rely on a deliciously observed bit of character acting from Dawn French. It is not just that she has

such a gift for faintly absurd mancrisms, but that she enacts them with such relish.

Frozen, last week's opener about two greedy prewar spinsters with a huge early model freezer, was a delightful bit of pastiche. The script consisted almost entirely of sily double-entendres of the type found on old seaside postcards, but inventive and daff enough to avoid *Carry On* sarcasm.

This week *Going Solo* with French and Sarah Lancashire as round-the-world yachswomen, wasn't quite as chortlesome. There was a nifty bit of plotting, with those Agatha Christie reprises where the same scenes are shown twice from different characters' points of view, but the twist was still predictable. French turned in another virtuoso performance as a fantastically irritating sailing companion, and the show went some way to make good the damage left by *The Builders*.

## REVIEW

Paul Hoggart

- BBC1**
- 6.00am Business Breakfast (78352)  
7.00am BBC Breakfast News (78352)  
9.00am Killy (78352)  
9.45am The Vanessa Show (78352)  
10.55am News; Regional News (78352)  
11.00am Change That (78352)  
11.25am Can't Cook, Won't Cook (78352)  
11.55am News; Regional News (78352)  
12.00pm Call My Bluff (78352)  
12.30pm Wipeout (78352)  
12.55pm The Weather Show (78352)  
1.00pm One O'Clock News; Weather (78352)  
1.30pm Regional News; Weather (78352)  
1.40pm Neighbours (78352)  
2.05pm Ironside (78352)  
2.55pm Through the Keyhole (78352)  
3.25pm Children's BBC: Playdays (78352)  
3.45pm The Littlest Post Shop (78352)  
3.55pm Bodge and Badger (78352)  
4.10pm Pocket Dragon Adventures (78352)  
4.20pm Anthony Ant (78352)  
4.35pm Guts (78352)  
4.40pm 5.10 Blue Peter (78352)  
5.35pm Neighbours (78352)  
6.00pm Six O'Clock News; Weather (78352)  
6.30pm Regional News Magazine (78352)  
7.00pm This is Your Life (78352)  
7.30pm Watchdog Healthcheck (78352)  
8.00pm Mrs Merton and Malcolm: Plucky Malcolm decides to teach the local big head a lesson (78352)  
9.00pm Nine O'Clock News; Regional News (78352)  
9.30pm Animal Police (78352)  
10.00pm Panorama: A report on the British gynaecologist Dr Richard Neale, who came back to work in this country after being struck off the Canadian medical register for incompetence (78352)

- BBC2**
- 7.00am Children's BBC Breakfast Show: Pingu (78352)  
7.05pm Teletubbies (78352)  
7.30pm Shogun (78352)  
7.50pm Blue Peter (78352)  
8.20pm Taz-Mania (78352)  
8.40pm Polka Dot Shorts (78352)  
8.50pm Remould the Remoulder (78352)  
9.00pm Space Ark (78352)  
9.10pm Short Circuit (78352)  
9.30pm Wintings and Pictures (78352)  
9.45pm Storyline (78352)  
10.00pm Teletubbies (78352)  
10.30pm Words and Pictures (78352)  
10.45pm Cats' Eyes (78352)  
11.00pm Look and Read (78352)  
11.20pm Zig Zag (78352)  
11.40pm Landmarks (78352)  
12.00pm Job Bank (78352)  
12.10pm History File (78352)  
12.30pm Working Lunch (78352)  
1.00pm Remould the Remoulder (78352)  
1.10pm The House Detectives (78352)  
1.40pm Hart-Davis on History (78352)  
2.10pm Awarsh with Colour (78352)  
2.40pm News; Regional News (78352)  
2.45pm Match of the Day (78352)  
3.25pm News; Regional News (78352)  
3.30pm The Village (78352)  
3.55pm Kaye Open Relationships (78352)  
4.25pm Ready, Steady, Cook! (78352)  
4.55pm Esther (78352)  
5.30pm Today's the Day (78352)  
6.00pm Hit, Miss or Maybe (78352)  
6.15pm The Simpsons: Lisa and Bart write a script for a TV show (78352)  
6.40pm Space 1999 (78352)  
7.30pm Rough Guide to the World: Edith Bowman and Dimitri Doganis explore the city of Cairo (78352)  
8.00pm Raising the Roof: Report on how leaseholders could have their rights taken away from them should someone buy their home's freehold (78352)  
8.30pm Food and Drink (78352)  
9.00pm CHOICE: Births, Marriages and Deaths: Graham Gilmour across a secret which has been kept from him for 25 years (78352)  
9.55pm Five Go Mad in the Kitchen (78352)  
10.00pm I Ruled the World With Pauline: McElynn and Hugh Dennis (78352)  
10.30pm Newsnight (78352)

- HTV**
- 5.30am TSN Morning News (14842)  
6.00am GMTV (51819)  
9.25pm TSN (831028)  
10.30pm This Morning (74925420)  
12.15pm HTV News and Weather (74925420)  
12.30pm TSN Lunchtime News; Weather (74925420)  
1.00pm Shortland Street (28284)  
1.30pm Home and Away (74925420)  
2.00pm The Jerry Springer Show (74925420)  
2.45pm Dale's Supermarket Sweep (74925420)  
3.15pm TSN News Headlines (74925420)  
3.30pm HTV News (74925420)  
3.35pm Kipper: Mopopolis's Shop (74925420)  
3.55pm Kipper (74925420)  
4.00pm Oogly and the Cockroaches (74925420)  
4.20pm It's a Mystery (74925420)  
4.45pm Sabrina the Teenage Witch (74925420)  
5.10pm WEST: Getaways (74925420)  
5.15pm WEST: Getaways (74925420)  
5.40pm TSN Early Evening News; Weather (74925420)  
6.00pm Home and Away (74925420)  
6.25pm WEST: HTV Weather (74925420)  
6.55pm WEST: Wales Tonight; Weather (74925420)  
7.30pm The West Tonight (74925420)  
7.55pm HTV Crimestoppers (74925420)  
8.00pm Wish You Were Here: Melinda Messenger visits Greece, Jamie Theakston goes skiing in the Swiss Alps and Cleo Pockos explores Naples, while Amiee Turner, broke through the Himalayan foothills (74925420)  
8.30pm Coronation Street (74925420)  
8.50pm Undercover Customs (74925420)  
9.00pm Carol Vorderman's Better Homes: Carol and her team of handymen take their tools to Port Sunlight on the Wirral (74925420)

- CENTRAL**
- As HTV West except:  
12.20-12.30pm Central News (7851130)  
1.00pm High Road (28284)  
1.30pm The Jerry Springer Show (7851130)  
2.15pm Home and Away (28284)  
3.20-3.25pm Central News (7851130)  
5.10-5.40pm Shortland Street (7851130)  
6.25-7.00pm Central News; Weather (281878)  
10.30-10.40pm Central News (28284)  
11.40pm The Big Match (719774)  
12.10-12.40pm Short Story Cinema (3047043)  
4.35pm Central Jobfinder '99 (2614802)  
5.20-5.30pm Asian Eye (708314)
- WESTCOUNTRY**
- As HTV West except:  
12.15pm-12.27pm Westcountry News; Weather (7413062)  
12.27-12.30pm Illuminations (767449)  
1.00pm High Road (28284)  
1.30pm The Jerry Springer Show (7413062)  
2.15-2.45pm Home and Away (7413062)  
3.20-3.25pm Westcountry News; Weather (7413062)  
5.10-5.40pm Home and Away (7413062)  
6.00-6.07pm Westcountry News; Weather (7413062)  
11.40-12.40pm The Wright Verdicts (759772)
- MERIDIAN**
- As HTV West except:  
12.15pm-12.30pm Meridian News; Weather (7413062)  
5.10-5.40pm Home and Away (7413062)  
6.00pm Meridian Tonight (7413062)  
6.00pm Meridian Country News; Weather (7413062)  
10.30-10.40pm Meridian News; Weather (7413062)  
11.40-12.40pm Prisoner: Cell Block H (759772)  
5.00am-5.30pm FreeScreen (742450)
- ANGLIA**
- As HTV West except:  
12.15pm-12.30pm Anglia News; Weather (7670265)  
12.30-12.35pm Anglia News and Weather (7670265)  
1.00pm Home and Away (7670265)  
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## COMPANIES 43

Rentokil faces up to its earnings test

# BUSINESS

## EURO PLAN 46

Roger Bootle on Hamlet without the Prince



BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

MONDAY MARCH 1 1999

## Trinity's £1bn bid hots up fight for Mirror

By RAYMOND SNODDY, MEDIA EDITOR

THE battle for control of Mirror Group began in earnest over the weekend as Trinity, the UK's largest regional newspaper group, tabled an indicative share and cash offer worth more than £1 billion for the newspaper and television group.

The Trinity offer, which is priced in the range of 205p to 215p a share, came as rival bidder, Regional Independent Media, publisher of the Yorkshire Post, decided to play a longer game. Rather than reveal its hand by submitting a new bid, RIM will, instead, make a formal application this week to the Department of Trade and Industry for permission to acquire Mirror Group, publisher of The Mirror, Sunday Mirror and Daily Record.

This will trigger an automatic Monopolies and Mergers Commission investigation, which will take at least three months. The move by Trinity is a reversal of the previous roles of the two rivals for the group. Trinity withdrew from earlier talks while RIM made the running with a 200p a share cash offer. Now it is likely that the future ownership of the national and regional newspaper company will not be decided until after an MMC inquiry into both the Trinity and RIM approaches.

From today, Trinity will be deemed to be in an offer period. The company will bring forward its annual results, which could be announced as early as today but certainly early this week. Pre-tax profits

of more than £72 million are expected, compared with £63.3 million in the previous year. Trinity's hope is that the performance will boost its share price and in turn help to improve the value of any share offer for Mirror Group.

Mirror Group itself will announce its results on Thursday with pre-tax profits of £101 million before exceptional expenses up from £93 million last time. Analysts are currently pitching their takeover valuations in the region of 220p to 230p per share.

The inevitable delay in the determination of Mirror Group's future could place limits on the ability of John Allwood, chief executive, to act. He is believed to be looking at the sale of Mirror's 20 per cent stake in Scottish Media and Live TV. However, the Takeover Panel may decide that such disposals cannot be made in an offer period.

Trinity's strongest card is the preference of Phillips & Drew Fund Management, Mirror's largest shareholder, for a paper deal. It has a large number of big stakes in underperforming companies, and bought its stake at a high price. The fund manager is unlikely to accept cash unless it realises a significant profit, implying an offer price as high as 250p a share.

RIM, a private company, believes that The Mirror and in particular the Sunday titles, Sunday Mirror and The People need considerable investment to turn them round and that can best be achieved away from the gaze of the City.



Lift off: Canary Wharf is this week expected to confirm plans for a stock market float. Although the company that owns and develops the Docklands site has never formally confirmed that it intends to float, all the advisers are now in place and preparations are in hand for a spring market debut that would value the company at more than £2 billion. Story, page 45

## C&W prepares for One-2-One flotation

By RAYMOND SNODDY

CABLE & WIRELESS, the international telecommunications group, is considering a flotation of One-2-One, the mobile telephone operator.

The telecoms group plans to cash in on investor enthusiasm with mobile phone companies. Analysts believe that One-2-One, a 50-50 joint venture between C&W and MediaOne, the US cable group, could be worth as much as £7 billion — £5 billion after debt. One-2-One is the smallest of Britain's four mobile phone companies with about two million subscribers but the whole mobile sector has seen rapid growth in recent months.

Cable & Wireless shares have performed badly compared with rivals such as BT, underperforming the telecommunications sector by 63 per cent over the past 12 months. The company believes that a flotation could release some of the value hidden in One-2-One.

Some analysts have wondered whether C&W would be prepared to sell its stake in the mobile company. C&W's new chief executive, Graham Wallace, made it clear in an interview last week that he sees mobile as a continuing part of the group, as one of the ways of delivering services to customers. C&W is more likely to be a purchaser of the MediaOne stake rather than a seller.

However, Mr Wallace ex-

plained that the relationship with MediaOne is a good one and there is absolutely nothing that needs fixing.

The float of a minority stake in the mobile group would help to put a market price on the company. The decision on whether or not to float One-2-One will be one of the first to be taken by Mr Wallace since

taking over. C&W has been an underperformer because of uncertainty over its 54 per cent stake in HongKong Telecom and years of management instability, which the City hopes has been ended by the appointment of Mr Wallace.

C&W declined to comment yesterday on its future plans for One-2-One.

Apart from the likely One-2-One initiative Mr Wallace will concentrate on accelerating Cable & Wireless's plans to create a global data network based on the Internet.

Any initial offering of One-2-One would be a minority interest, probably in the region of 25 per cent of the business.

The ultimate ownership situation could then be clarified at a later date. The obvious template is the success of Orange which was floated by Hutchison Whampoa and British Aerospace in 1996 and is now valued at more than £10.5 billion.

## Further rate cut expected

By ALASDAIR MURRAY, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE City is optimistic that the Bank of England will again cut rates when the Monetary Policy Committee meets this week.

Although the MPC has reduced rates from a peak of 7.5 per cent to 5.5 per cent, analysts believe there are few signs that the Bank is ready to call a halt to its cutting spree.

The Bank still believes there are significant downside risks. Eddie George, the Governor, said yesterday that there was little that he could do to further ease the pain suffered by the manufacturing sector. "I could seek to ease the pain but only by giving an aspirin and actually the underlying pain would be worse later on if I did," he added, however, that he thought the chances that Britain suffered a technical recession during the first part of this year were only about "one in four".

## Virgin on BA's tail with Union Jack design

By SAIED SHAH

VIRGIN ATLANTIC is to adopt the Union Jack in a new design for its aircraft to be unveiled later this year in a move intended to mock arch-rival British Airways.

Airways, which dropped the national flag from its tailfin, to much derision, two years ago.

The new Virgin livery may feature the flag on the tailfins of its aircraft. BA said yesterday that it would press ahead with its new multicultural look, announced in June 1997. It has already painted 200 of its 350 aircraft with a range of internationally inspired designs, in place of "British" livery.

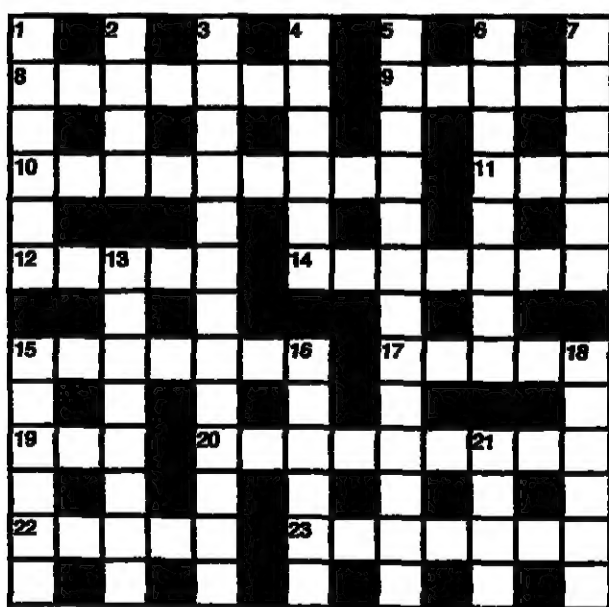
Paul Moore, a spokesman for Virgin, said: "Although we're an international company, we're proud to be British." Virgin has spent "tens of thousands" of pounds on the new design for the outside of its aircraft, which will number

30 by the end of this year, in contrast to the millions spent by British Airways to come up with its multicoloured "edunite" designs.

Richard Branson's airline will also unveil a new interior refit, costing £25 million to £30 million, which follows BA with a seat for business or "upper" class that can be made completely flat for sleeping. Virgin will also announce that it has applied for a route to Chicago. New routes to Chicago, Shanghai and New York will generate 500 extra jobs.

For its part, BA, which has been losing market share in business class, has begun a significant internal restructuring, which will divide the company into short-haul (UK and Europe) and two long-haul businesses, one for Asia and the Middle East, and the other for the Americas.

## TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1653

## ACROSS

- 8 Capital of Kenya (7)  
9 Club for superintelligent (5)  
10 Bottom drawer contents (9)  
11 Have debt (5)  
12 Formal reasoning (5)  
14 In irritable manner (7)  
15 Make believe (7)  
17 Cute Disney deer (5)  
19 Bear cask (5)  
20 A cuddly toy (5,4)  
22 Gk. island, off Albania (5)  
23 Pen in (7)

## DOWN

- 1 Gradually introduce, establish (6)  
2 Bye-bye (Ital.) (4)  
3 Conker tree (5,8)  
4 Amuse; change course (6)  
5 Spun-of-moment purchasing (6)  
6 Speech of praise (8)  
7 Table linen set (6)  
13 Decorative foliage (8)  
15 Coup d'état (6)  
16 Work out by 12 (6)  
18 Country S of Lebanon (6)  
21 Way out (4)

## SOLUTION TO NO 1652

- ACROSS: 1 Cycle 4 Furtive 8 Smothered male 9 Ideology  
10 Jilt 12 Squint 13 Infect 16 Bark 17 Bulldoze  
20 Overawe 21 Sheba 22 Ensnare 23 Odyssey  
DOWN: 1 Cassius 2 Close quarters 3 Exhaling 4 Forge  
5 Redo 6 Imagine 7 Eject 11 Anglesy 14 Therapy  
15 Tuxedo 16 Booze 18 Opens 19 Wake

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